

# Participant Information Statement - Principals



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

## *Growing, Leading and Sustaining Evidence-Informed Practice in Schools*

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### 1. What is this study about?

This research seeks to explore the factors that enable and demonstrate growing, leading and sustaining evidence-informed practice in schools. By collecting examples from whole-school sites that demonstrate and lead evidence-informed practice, the aim is to learn about what teachers and leaders in schools are doing, the structures, cultures and strategies being developed, and the extent to which individual and organisational factors influence changes in practice. We intend to use this knowledge to help schools lead evidence-informed practice well in the future. Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you do not understand or want to know more about.

### 2. Who is running the study?

Mr Isaac Dargan is running this study as part of a Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Sydney, with the following supervisors:

- Dr Christine Grice, Senior Lecturer, Educational Leadership, Sydney School of Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney
- Dr Rachel Perry, Honorary Research Fellow, Sydney School of Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney

This study is a doctoral research project. The study came out of a collaborative professional learning project created in partnership between The Evidence Institute at the Association of Independent Schools NSW (AISNSW) and Centre for Educational Measurement and Assessment (CEMA) within Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at The University of Sydney.

There are no financial benefits for conducting this research.

### 3. Who can take part in the study?

You have been invited to take part in this study because you or a colleague have completed the AISNSW professional learning program, Growing Evidence-Informed Practice (GEIP). We obtained your contact details through the AISNSW professional learning database and

informed you about the project through program correspondence. We are seeking the voluntary participation of program participants after they have completed GEIP. In addition, we will also invite participants in schools who have been recommended by their colleagues. They may or may not have participated in the GEIP program.

#### **4. What will the study involve for me?**

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to participate in a 45-60 minute focus group interview via Teams. If there are no other participants from your school, this will be an individual interview. The interview will occur at a time that is convenient for you and it will be recorded.

We seek permission for you to provide artefacts as you share your narrative. Examples of artefacts include whole-school programs that demonstrate the use of evidence-informed practice. If requested, transcripts will be returned for verification. The interview questions are attached.

You may also be asked to take part in an 45-60 minute observation. This will occur in your professional setting at a time that is convenient for you. For example, a staff meeting. No students will be observed throughout this study. The observation will be conducted by Isaac Dargan and will be recorded in the form of notes.

#### **5. Can I withdraw once I've started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers, anyone else at The University of Sydney, or your relationship with The Association of Independent Schools New South Wales. We do not anticipate your decision will affect your relationship with your school.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind, you can withdraw by notifying the researchers using the contact details above. You are able to withdraw at any time. If you decide to withdraw, we will not collect any more information from the participants at your school.

If you take part in a group interview, you are free to stop at any stage or to refuse to answer any of the questions. However, since it is a group discussion, it may not be possible to withdraw your individual comments from our records once the group has started, nor to provide a transcription.

If you participate in an observation, you are free to stop at any stage and we will not collect any more information from you.

#### **6. Are there any risks or costs?**

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

### **7. Are there any benefits?**

You will not receive any direct benefits from being in the study.

### **8. What will happen to information that is collected?**

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting information about you for the purposes of this study.

Any information you provide us will be stored securely in de-identified form, where identifiers (names, school names) will be removed from any written/recorded data and replaced by a code or pseudonyms for de-identification and confidentiality purposes. Only the named researchers will have access to it. We will only disclose information with your permission, unless we are required by law to release information. We are planning for the study findings to be published. You will not be individually identifiable in these publications, nor your school.

No other information about you will be collected except what you tell us in the interview. Audio and video recordings will be used for analysis purposes only and may be used in de-identified form in publications and presentations. No third parties will have access to the information during or after the study.

Electronic materials, including notes, transcripts and video recordings will be stored digitally using The University of Sydney's supported research data platform [Highly Protected Sharepoint](#). Highly Protected SharePoint meets the University's security requirements for storing and accessing highly protected data. Any paper-based consent forms will be destroyed once they have been scanned and backed-up. Data will be stored in re-identifiable form where the information has had identifiers removed and replaced by a code so that it is possible to identify individuals only by using the code. This is because the data may be used in a larger study in the future and in that instance, further ethics approval will be sought.

### **9. Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive information about the overall results of this study. This will be in the form of a brief lay summary. Please fill in your contact details on the participant consent form if you wish to receive this.

### **10. What if I would like further information?**

When you have read this information, the following researcher will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

- Isaac Dargan, Student, Sydney School of Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of Sydney email: idar8852@uni.sydney.edu.au

## 11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [2024/HE000085] according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

Human Ethics Manager  
[human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)  
+61 2 8627 8176

*This information is for you to keep*