

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL COVER LETTER

PROJECT TITLE: Wellbeing in Literacy

APPLICATION NUMBER: (2024-3808)

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR: Professor Genevieve McArthur

Dear *[Principal]*,

I am a Professor in the Australian Centre for the Advancement of Literacy at the Australian Catholic University and the Director of Research Translation at the Dyslexia SPELD Foundation. I lead a national team of researchers - including Drs Andrea Salins and Nathan Caruana and PhD candidate Claire Galea - who are working to discover why problems with reading are linked to poor wellbeing, and what we can do to help.

So far, not much quality research has addressed these problems, and so we have a lot of work to do. For example, very few measures of reading-related well-being exist, and so we have just created a suite of unique student questionnaires that assess reading engagement, reading values, and reading anxiety. We need to trial and validate these questionnaires to make sure they are working properly.

We also need to administer these questionnaires to students alongside evidence-based reading and spelling measures so we can test the relationships between reading and different types of wellbeing. To minimise disruption to a school, these measures can be administered to large groups of students in a single school period. If this does not suit a school, we can co-design a different mode of administration.

It is worth mentioning that if a school is working towards an MTSS approach for literacy (multi-tiered system of support) then the spelling or reading scores collected by this research could be shared with the school (with ethics approval). These scores could be combined with classroom assessments and/or NAPLAN results to help identify students who may need additional support. If the school is keen to base that support on quality evidence, then we would be very happy to act as scientific consultants.

If any of these opportunities sound of use to your school, please contact Dr Andrea Salins to get more information or to set up a meeting so we can discuss how we might assist your school within the context of our research (andrea.salins@acu.edu.au; +61450552315).

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Genevieve McArthur

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