

## Participant Information Statement

### **Research study: RESPECT Against Racism - Advancing new anti-racist educational e-modules**

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#### **1. What is this study about?**

We are conducting a research study to better understand how primary school teachers experience and approach race, racism, and cultural diversity in the classroom, and to gather feedback on the design of new online anti-racism learning modules for schools. This study is part of a larger project to develop the RESPECT e-modules, which aim to deliver effective and engaging anti-racism education that aligns with the Australian Curriculum.

Your insights will help ensure these resources are relevant, effective, and supportive of both teachers and students. Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

#### **2. Who is running this study?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Professor Fiona White, Professor of Social Psychology, University of Sydney
- Professor Nida Denson, Professor of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University
- Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, Director of Indigenous Research, Western Sydney University
- Dr Jessica Walton, Honorary Academic, University of Technology Sydney
- Ms Tanna Hardinge, First Nations Education Specialist, Cool.org
- Mr Hamish Curry, General Manager, Cool.org
- Dr Alexandra Wong, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Sydney

- Ms Emma McDermott, Research Assistant, School of Psychology, University of Sydney

This study is being funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

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

We are seeking primary school teachers across Australia to take part in this study. Participants should be willing to share their experiences and perspectives on teaching about race, racism, and cultural diversity. You have been invited through professional networks, education-focused mailing lists, or social media.

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

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to:

#### **1. Complete a brief online questionnaire (approximately 5 minutes)**

This questionnaire will be sent to you a few days before your scheduled focus group. It will ask about your background, including your age, cultural identity, and teaching experience, as well as your confidence in teaching students from diverse backgrounds and your prior experiences addressing race and racism in educational settings.

#### **2. Participate in a 55-minute online focus group via Zoom**

You will join a small group of approximately 4–5 primary school teachers for a facilitated session at a time that is convenient for all participants. The focus group will be divided into two parts:

- Part 1 (25 minutes – Discussion): You will be invited to reflect on and share your personal and professional experiences relating to race and cultural diversity in the classroom. You will also respond to hypothetical classroom scenarios involving race-based discrimination.
- Part 2 (30 minutes – Design): You will review sample content from Cool.org's online learning modules and provide feedback on what types of learning activities or resources (e.g., videos, critical thinking exercises) would best support student engagement and learning in anti-racism education.

With your consent, the focus group will be recorded for the purpose of transcription and analysis. The recording will be used solely for research purposes. Your name and any identifying information will be removed from the transcript.

### **5. Can I withdraw once I have 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 or anyone else at The University of Sydney. We do not anticipate your decision will affect your relationship with will

affect your relationship with Cool.org, Western Sydney University, University of Technology Sydney or the schools you work at.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind, you can withdraw at any time before or during the focus group by notifying the research team, either by email or during the session. If you withdraw after the session, you may request that your data (including the recording and transcript) be excluded from analysis, provided it has not already been de-identified or included in reporting.

There are no consequences for withdrawal. If you attend the focus group and participate in part of the session, you will still receive the full reimbursement, even if you choose to leave before the session ends.

If you take part in a focus group, you are free to stop at any time or choose not to answer any questions. However, because this is a group discussion, it may not be possible to remove your individual comments from the recording once the group has started.

If you choose to withdraw, we will stop collecting information from you. If you do not want the information already collected to be included in the study results, please let us know at the time you withdraw.

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

There are no anticipated physical or financial costs associated with taking part in this study. However, some people may find discussions about racism or cultural discrimination emotionally challenging or uncomfortable. You may experience mild psychological discomfort when reflecting on personal or professional experiences related to race, diversity, or discrimination.

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are free to skip any questions or withdraw from the discussion at any time without consequences.

To support your wellbeing, the debrief statement provided after the session will include contact information for free and confidential support services, including Lifeline (13 11 14), Beyond Blue (1300 22 4636), 13YARN (13 92 76 – for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people), and the University of Sydney Psychology Clinic.

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

As a thank you for your time and contribution, you will receive a \$100 digital gift card for participating in the focus group. In addition, your participation will help support the development of anti-racism education resources designed for use in Australian primary schools.

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

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

We will collect your responses to a pre-session questionnaire and your contributions during a recorded online focus group conducted via Zoom. Each participant will be assigned a unique ID number, which will be used to link questionnaire responses to their focus group contributions. This allows your data to be connected for analysis while maintaining confidentiality.

Identifiable information (e.g., your name and contact details) will be collected during the consent process to confirm participation and schedule focus groups. This information will be stored in a separate participant record file, securely maintained by the research team, and linked to your PID. Identifiable information will not be linked directly to your research data.

Focus group recordings will be used solely for transcription purposes, and transcripts will be de-identified by removing any information that could directly or indirectly identify you. We will use Zoom's built-in transcription software to transcribe the focus group session. This will involve sharing your information with Zoom. Zoom is owned by Zoom Video Communication Inc. and is located in San Jose, California, US. This data will not be shared beyond the research team unless required by law.

All research data will be managed in line with the University of Sydney's Research Data Management Policy. During the project, data will be stored securely on University-approved platforms (Qualtrics, Zoom, and OneDrive). After the study, de-identified data will be archived in the University's Research Data Store and retained indefinitely to support future research.

Sharing research data is important for advancing knowledge and innovation. A de-identified version of the dataset may be made available in an open-access repository (e.g., Open Science Framework) in accordance with ARC Open Access requirements. Any content that could potentially identify participants will be excluded.

We plan to publish the study findings. You will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

For more details about how your information will be handled please see the University's [privacy webpage](#).

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

You have the right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. If you are interested in receiving a summary of the findings, you can opt in during the consent process by providing your email address in the relevant section of the online consent survey.

If you choose to opt in, you will receive a brief, plain-language summary of the study findings once they are finalised. This summary will include general, de-identified results from the focus groups and key themes that helped shape the RESPECT e-modules. It will not contain any information that could identify individual participants.

If you did not opt in during the consent process but later decide you would like to receive the results, you can contact Professor Fiona White ([fiona.white@sydney.edu.au](mailto:fiona.white@sydney.edu.au)) to request a copy.

#### 10. What if I would like more information?

When you have read this information, Professor Fiona White ([fiona.white@sydney.edu.au](mailto:fiona.white@sydney.edu.au), +61 2 9351 3246) will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have.

#### 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 [ethics reference: 2025/HE000876] according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

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 sheet is for you to keep***