



# 2021 Research Partner Schools Project

## Expression of Interest

Your school is invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the QCEC Research Partner Schools Program (RPSP) in collaboration with The University of Queensland's [Science of Learning Research Centre](#) (SLRC) and [Evidence for Learning](#) (E4L). This partnership provides collaborators with the opportunity to learn together through a year-long process of inquiry, guided by academic researchers and experts to investigate a school-based issue or priority, and address this through an evidence informed approach.

The process requires schools to build a small team (up to 5) of curious learners and school leaders, who will: collectively identify a research focus; thoughtfully and critically engage with research and evidence; and design, implement and evaluate a systematic inquiry or intervention, all in collaboration with and supported by the SLRC and E4L teams. The process will be embedded within existing professional learning where possible and will develop knowledge and skills in both the research phenomenon and in how to engage with research and evidence.

This process may support participants who are compiling a portfolio to apply for Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher certification.

Schools who have been involved in the past have reported that the QCEC RPSP:

*"...demystified the research process",*

*"...generated an enlightenment and enthusiasm for creating and maintaining stronger connections with academia" and,*

*"...enabled me to deepen my professional learning on educational research and evidence-based practice in schools and has contributed to my motivation to continue to embed evidence-based pedagogy and practice in my workplace as a teacher".*

Successful project teams involved in the past have included the following characteristics:

- a collaborative team approach, with participants including school leaders and teachers;
- clearly articulated team roles (developed during the first session) and a commitment to the sessions as outlined on the project overview;
- positive dispositions towards learning with and from one another, from the broader partnership, and from the process.



The invitation is open to all schools with the support of their Catholic School Authority, including those who have participated in the past. The program will cater to both new and existing schools with adapted content and new online support materials.

Each participating school is required to contribute \$2000 from their allocation of the Advancing Teaching and Learning Fund to assist in meeting the costs associated with this opportunity.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Each EOI will be reviewed by the SLRC/E4L Team and feedback provided for reflection, discussion and possible revision. Your Project needs to address one of the following three priority areas that have been endorsed by the Commission (please highlight):

### Priority Areas:

- a. To investigate how to maximise the benefits of a blended learning approach to pedagogy.
- b. To investigate pedagogy actioned in the classroom to promote the learning regulation of students.
- c. To investigate how to effectively engage parents to increase support for a learning community.

## KEY DATES

This program requires a significant commitment from participating schools. Schools need to be prepared to release staff to attend a variety of project milestone meetings and to support them in their research. Where possible and appropriate, participants can join these meetings via Zoom.

- **Session 1: 23 February, 2-4 pm virtual** – 2-hour Cluster Meeting (zoom link to be provided closer to the date)
- **Session 2: 15 and 16 March 2021** – intended 2-day Planning Meeting at ACU Leadership Centre
- **Session 3: Mid-Term 2** – 2-hour Cluster Meeting
- **Session 4: Mid-Term 3** – 2-hour Cluster Meeting
- **Session 5: 15 October 2021** – Showcase Presentation

In addition, there will be a variety of opportunities given for support by both the SLRC and E4L as well as email updates required.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted online via the link [2021 Research Partner Schools Project Expression of Interest](#) by **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**.

For further information or clarification, please email [shannono@qcec.catholic.edu.au](mailto:shannono@qcec.catholic.edu.au)