Plain language information statement
Online trial of reading and vocabulary

The TEAL project is being conducted by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) for the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET), the Catholic Education Commission, Victoria (CECV) and Independent Schools, Victoria (ISV).

The project is developing materials to help teachers of EAL (English as an Additional Language) improve assessment strategies used with EAL learners. This will result in more accurate assessment of EAL students in all schools in Victoria. As part of this project, Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), together with UNSW, is developing questions for an online EAL assessment of reading and vocabulary.

EAA is currently looking for schools that have EAL populations in Years 7–9 to participate in an online trial assessment of reading and vocabulary. These will be conducted on school premises in Term 3, 2015. The trial will require students to be able to read independently and to have basic computer literacy in order to answer the items. Your child has been identified as meeting these criteria and is invited to participate in the trial.

Schools will receive aggregated information about the questions students answered correctly and incorrectly and the skill area of each question. Individual student reports will not be provided. Neither EAA nor the online platform provider LinkIt! will have access to information that identifies individual students; both EAA and LinkIt! will be given IDs for each student.

Your child’s school will organise the date and time that students will sit the trial assessment. Prior to the trial, students will be provided with a practice test to ensure they are familiar with the types of questions they will see during the trial. If you agree to your child participating in the trial, your child will read a passage and respond to a series of questions and answer questions about English words. If you agree to your child participating in the trial, you do not need to do anything.

If you do not agree to your child participating in the trial, please inform the following school contact: ____________________________

(Name of Principal/TEAL Trial contact)

Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

If you have further questions about this activity or the TEAL project, you can ask for further information from the Project Manager, Gerry Davies, gedavies@unsw.edu.au, or the Project Leader, Prof Chris Davison, c.davison@unsw.edu.au

Prof Chris Davison
Project Leader