INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

STEM TOOLS IN TEACHER EDUCATION AND PRACTICE: PERSPECTIVES FROM CQU EDUCATION STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Teachers and educators across all stages of education play an important role in engaging learners in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The aim of this survey is to better understand the level of exposure education students and educators have had to STEM tools and practices during their teacher education and educational practice.

In particular, the study will examine whether education students and educators have encountered tools such as microscopes, telescopes, robotics kits, and coding tools during their teacher education and professional practice, whether these tools are available in their current educational settings, and how they are used to support teaching and learning.

Who can participate?

You may participate if you are:

- currently enrolled in an education-related program at Central Queensland University (CQU); or
- a CQU alumnus/alumna currently working in an educational setting in Australia.

This may include education students or educators in early childhood, primary, secondary, inclusive education, educational leadership, vocational education, or those working across multiple year levels.

What does participating involve?

You are invited to participate in an anonymous online survey which consists of questions about your educational context, teacher education experiences, exposure to STEM tools during teacher education and/or professional practice, and confidence in facilitating learning with STEM tools.
Completion of the survey will take **5-10 minutes**.
Your participation is voluntary. Your association with CQU will not be affected in any way if you choose to participate or choose not to participate in this project.

What are the benefits and risks?

As a token of appreciation, participants may choose to enter a prize draw to **win one of two $50 gift cards redeemable for STEM educational supplies from Science First.** Participation in the prize draw is entirely optional and is not required to participate in the survey. To maintain the anonymity of survey responses, contact details for the prize draw will be collected through a separate form and will not be linked to survey responses.

This project may benefit education students, educators, researchers, and educational organisations interested in strengthening STEM education. The study may help identify opportunities to improve teacher education, professional learning, and access to STEM tools and resources.

This study is considered **low risk**. We do not anticipate any risks beyond the time taken to complete the survey and the minor inconvenience associated with participation.

Is my participation confidential?

Your survey responses will be anonymous and no identifying information will be collected through the survey. If you choose to enter the prize draw, your contact details will be collected separately and will not be linked to your survey responses. Contact details will only be used to administer the prize draw and will be deleted once prizes have been awarded.

What will happen to my data?

To ensure research integrity, survey data will be screened to exclude incomplete, duplicate, fraudulent, or ineligible responses.

Data will be securely stored in accordance with CQU policies and procedures. Anonymous data may be used in future related research projects and may be published in academic publications, reports or open-access formats (e.g., research repositories). No identifying information will be shared.

How do I consent?

Participation in this project is voluntary. By selecting the consent option and proceeding to complete the survey, you are indicating your consent to participate.

What if I change my mind?

You may withdraw at any time before submitting the survey by closing your browser window. Incomplete responses will be automatically deleted after one week and will not be included in the analysis. Once submitted, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they cannot be linked to you.

Where will the research outcomes be reported or shared?

The findings from this research may be shared through academic publications, conference presentations, professional reports, and public-facing formats such as blogs, newsletters or media articles.
All findings will be reported in aggregated form and in a way that ensures individual participants cannot be identified.

How can I find out about the results of this research?

A short summary of the project's findings will be available by July 2027. To request a copy, please contact the research team using the details below.

Who can I contact to discuss this research?

If you have any questions about this project, please contact:

Dr Emma Brown
Lecturer, CQU
e.brown@cqu.edu.au

Dr Yanina Carrizo
Senior Lecturer, CQU
y.carrizo@cqu.edu.au

This project has received CQUniversity ethics approval: number 0000026144.
If you have concerns about the ethical conduct of this research or questions about your rights as a participant, please contact the CQU Ethics Officer (Tel: 07 4923 2603; Email ethics@cqu.edu.au).