

Constructing a framework for early childhood teachers' cultural wellbeing



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

CALL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER PARTICIPANTS

Are you an early childhood teacher working in a multicultural setting in the Sydney area?

Faculty of Education researchers Dr Sonja Arndt and Ms Rachael Keating are seeking participants for a research project investigating early childhood teachers' identity and belonging. The aim of the project is to strengthen intercultural understandings and practices in early childhood education, with a particular focus on teachers' cultural identity. This includes working with early childhood teachers to draft a framework for culturally relevant practices in ECE.

We are looking for 10-15 volunteer participants who are:

- Early childhood teachers or educators working in multicultural settings.
- From any cultural background.
- Willing to participate in two online focus groups and one face to face focus group with a small number of early childhood teachers (approximately 4 hours total) over a period of approximately 2 years.
- Willing to develop their own culture story, using methods of their choice (e.g. written narratives, artworks, voice).

The study aims to consider:

- How teachers experience their own culture stories, identities and sense of cultural belonging in their early childhood setting and teaching team?
- In what ways teachers' culture stories and identities influence their teaching orientations and practices?
- In what ways teachers' intercultural understandings, collegial support, and pedagogical implementation of the curriculum framework (EYLF) can be strengthened through more nuanced engagements with their own cultural identities?

Focus groups will be audio recorded and transcribed by the researchers. As a participant you will be able to check your transcripts and individual data. Outputs from the research will not include any information which is likely to identify you or any of the other participants. Each participant will be asked to select a pseudonym (another name) to be used in all reporting. While every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality, it cannot be guaranteed as you will be participating in focus groups, participants will be visible to one another, and you will know what each person said.

Participating teachers will receive a \$50 voucher in appreciation of their contribution.

If you would like more information about the study, please contact **Dr Sonja Arndt** (Responsible Researcher) sonja.arndt@unimelb.edu.au

Thank you for taking the time to consider our invitation to this project.

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence, please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.