EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Evaluating the impact of Positive Education Training for educators

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Invitation to participate in research
You are invited to take part in research being conducted by the Institute of Positive Education. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, please contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?
In this research project, we aim to evaluate the impact of our intensive training experiences through inviting educators to complete pre-, post and follow-up questionnaires about their subjective wellbeing and confidence in teaching and implementing Positive Education. All participants will also be invited to take part in optional and additional focus groups or telephone interviews following the survey data collection. By collecting data on the impact of our training courses such as Discovering Positive Education (DPE) and Discovering More Positive Education (DMPE), we gain valuable information about the potential of our training in enhancing wellbeing and teacher confidence in teaching Positive Education. Findings will be used to inform course development and improvement, and test assumptions underlying our existing frameworks such as Learn it, Live it, Teach it and Embed it.
What will I be asked to do?

If you choose to participate in this research, you will be asked to complete online surveys at three time points. You will be emailed prior to the training and invited to complete an Online Flourishing Survey which should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. On the last day of the training, you will be asked to complete the same Online Survey.

Three months after the training, we will contact you again via email and ask you to complete the same Online Flourishing Survey. After completing survey data collection, we will invite you to participate in focus groups or telephone interviews about your experiences of Positive Education and how the training has impacted you and your school.

What are the benefits of participating?

We believe the insights gained from this study will be useful to all schools implementing Positive Education, as training is an essential component of Positive Education. Participation in this study will help to strengthen knowledge of best-practice in the field of Positive Education.

Participants who complete all aspects of the study will be entered into a draw to win 1 of 15 book prizes, 1 of 3 Positive Education curriculums, or 1 of 3 consultations with the Institute of Positive Education. At the conclusion of the telephone interviews or focus group process following each course, one participant will be randomly selected and offered one of these prizes.

What will happen to my survey responses?

No names or identifying features will be collected in the surveys to protect your privacy. Data will be collected from the online survey database SurveyMonkey, a US-based service provider. Your responses to each survey will be anonymous and deleted from the online database once its administrative use has concluded. At which time your responses will be transferred and stored at Geelong Grammar School. The information you provide will be kept in a secure, password-protected database at Geelong Grammar School, accessible only to nominated researchers on the research project team.

The information provided will be used by authorised staff for the purpose for which it was collected and will be protected against unauthorised access and use. The service providers involved in the management, handling and storage of data collected during this project conform to the requirements of data security and privacy for the types of information being collected. By consenting to participate, you agree to the collection, transfer and storage of information on servers used by SurveyMonkey and Geelong Grammar School. The service providers involved in the management, handling and storage
of data collected during this project conform to the requirements of data security and privacy for the types of information being collected.

All data will be securely destroyed after a minimum of 5 years from when the final report of the study is published. You may access any personal identifiable information you have provided to Geelong Grammar School by contacting (03) 5227 6222. Geelong Grammar School is committed to protecting personal information provided by you in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).

In order to advance scientific discovery it can be useful for researchers to share information they obtain from studies with other researchers. The deidentified survey data you provide may be used for future research use for up to 5 years. Any data shared will be deidentified and not able to be reidentified. If researchers request access to the data, proposals to use the data will be evaluated on their scientific merit. The quantitative data will be shared via a metadata record (summary of the data) that is discoverable by others. The raw data will not be published alongside the metadata record however the record will provide the potential re-user with information about how the data can be accessed.

**What will happen to information I share in a focus group or a telephone interview?**

If you choose to participate in a focus group or a telephone interview as part of this study, we will record your discussions via audio and/or video recording so that the sessions can be transcribed. Our analyses will focus on main themes which arise from discussions. Reported results will ensure any information shared is non-identifiable, for example, by use of pseudonyms, ensuring no other identifying information such as school, gender, role are included. Furthermore, all direct quotes will be screened for their degree of sensitivity to ensure only quotes which do not expose sensitive information are shared. As with survey responses, all data – transcripts, audio/video recordings and analyses – will be stored in a secure password protected database. Data will be retained for 5 years and then securely deleted. Due to the identifiable and sensitive nature of participant responses, only a metadata record will be shared with other researchers.

**How do I find out about the study’s findings?**

Our analyses of the data will involve evaluating how the whole group was impacted from the training, as opposed to following individuals over time. A report of key findings will be generated and sent out to participating individuals for their interest. Any written reports or publications will only include group data, and will not be identifiable in any way.
What if I change my mind?

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to provide consent by completing an online consent form. If you change your mind at any stage, you are free to withdraw from the research. You can withdraw from the study by contacting the Researcher Ben Carter, bcarter@ggs.vic.edu.au. If you choose to withdraw from the study and would like any data you have supplied withdrawn (i.e. survey responses) then we may ask for your self-identifying code so that we can locate and delete the deidentified data you have supplied. Withdrawal from the study is possible up until the final report is written. After this time, you will not be able to withdraw your data.

Are there any risks?

The risks of participating in this research are low, however there is a risk that you may become upset while completing the surveys and/or taking part in the focus groups or telephone interviews. If you do become distressed at any stage, please seek support if you feel you need to talk to someone about how you are feeling. You may have supports already available (e.g. family, friends, health professionals), otherwise, you can call Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).