Dear Colleague,

RMIT University and the University of Melbourne are undertaking an Office of Learning and Teaching funded project ‘Not a Waste of Space – professional development for staff teaching in New Generation Learning Spaces’.

The project objective is to design, trial and validate a flexible professional development approach for academic staff focused on new generation learning spaces (NGLS). There is increasing interest and energy surrounding the use of new generation learning spaces. The research will investigate the best approaches to providing professional development for academic staff.

Specifically, the Not a Waste of Space project aims to:

- design, develop and trial, in university contexts, an academic staff professional development approaches, with accompanying resources and institutional implementation ‘eGuide’,
- develop innovative professional development activities for NGLSs that are ‘flexible’, ‘bite-sized’, ‘just-in-time’, ‘just-for-me’ with activities aimed at enhancing learning and teaching approaches in NGLSs,
- make materials widely available for sector-wide use, and
- enhance student learning experiences in NGLSs by helping staff to improve their teaching practices.

You have been invited to participate since you are an academic currently teaching in a new generation learning space and/or are new to teaching in a new generation learning space and/or new to teaching. Your views and experiences are of great value in supporting the development of resources for academic professional learning. Participation may involve one or more of the following, a survey, trialling and providing feedback on one or more resources, participating in interviews and/or focus groups.

All data collected will remain anonymous and confidential. Contributors to focus group interview data will not be identified in any research publications and/or associated documents. Any published comments will be anonymous or appropriately cited/attributed if you wish to be identified. All data will be secured in line with national research ethic protocols.

Participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the project at any time and to withdraw any unprocessed data previously supplied.

Those involved in the leadership of the project include Prof. Barbara de la Harpe, A/Prof. Kenn Fisher, Dr Wesley Imms, Megan McPherson, A/Prof. Kym Fisher, Thembi Mason and Felicity Prentice. The project officially ends in December 2013.

Further information can be obtained from the project manager if you have any questions or problems (megan.mcpherson@rmit.edu.au  ph: 039925 9003)

Kind regards,

Barbara de la Harpe (on behalf of the project leadership team)

Date: 1 MARCH 2012
Ethics Approval Number: CHEAN A&B-2000610-11/11
Should you have any complaint about participation in this research, please refer to: http://www.rmit.edu.au/rd/hrec