

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your work on the decadal plan and for making the consultation paper available. The priority areas are relevant, and you highlight some significant concerns regarding the decline in education research funding in recent years. I have a few curiosities about the paper, which relate to values, philosophy, and researcher engagement.

1. The following words/terms are not included anywhere in the paper: racism, whiteness, coloniality, settler colonialism, Indigenous knowledge/s, European, misogyny, ableism, neoliberalism.
2. The absence of these terms, and discussion of their meaning, renders invisible critical research that interrogates how structures of domination (such as racism, ableism, and misogyny) show up in education systems and schools. One only needs to read Australian Education Researcher to see that many in our research collective are committed to this type of critical research; researchers who are working hard to dismantle neoliberalism, unpick settler-colonialism, and interrogate the different ways that power continues to privilege some over others, in education and society.
3. The current framing centres the same liberal/data centric approaches that have been failing us for at least two decades.

It is urgent that these omissions are attended to in the paper. Education researchers need to be supported to do the hard critical work that is required to unravel the inequalities in our system and support aspirations for education justice. The plan should recognise this important work by calling for critical research to be resourced with public funds.

Best regards

