



# Being



## (human) Being Anthology Application and Consent Form

'What happens when people feel that they are not in charge of their stories either locally, or in a globalised world, is alienation. This is the problem of censoring, of silencing, amputating parts of the story, or having stories stolen, or writing official scripts, or having your story told on other people's terms.

Stories have been blown off course. Marooned. Caught in nets. The storytellers will need to fly higher, be braver to capture more of the world, and tell stories more imaginatively, more forcibly, and powerfully enough, to subvert the censoring narratives of inhumanity.' —[Alexis Wright](#) (2019)

### (human) Being is VATE's response – to fly higher and to be braver.

Creating an Australia free from discrimination is a job for everyone. This series will move stories from the margins to the centre. It will be an act of visibility and solidarity and a counterprogram to the noise. It will place the human voice at the centre – to fight mis/disinformation through narrative.

This inaugural edition of **(human) Being** amplifies LGBTQIA+ voices by bringing together student and teacher writing with commissioned contributions from established authors. Importantly, it will also include factual information to combat mis/disinformation. Supported by mentorship and paired with a practical teacher resource, the project aims to strengthen inclusive practice in schools, foster belonging, and celebrate queer storytelling.

**(human) Being** is an initiative of VATE (Victorian Association for the Teaching of English). VATE is a not-for-profit organisation which supports the teaching of secondary English in Victoria through advocacy, publications and resources, and professional learning.

This VATE initiative is supported by **Karys McEwen** (author editor), **Will Kostakis** (author ambassador), and **Ange Crawford**, **Ernest Price** and **Jes Layton** (commissioned writers).

### Invitation to students

Years 7–12 Victorian students are invited to contribute to the **(human) Being** anthology.

This will involve the following:

- Submission of a piece of original writing.
- In Term 2, students intending to contribute to **(human) Being** will be invited to take part in a live, one-hour online workshop with the anthology's authors and author-editor. Held from 3–4pm via Zoom, these sessions will give young writers the chance to ask questions, explore ideas of identity and representation, and receive guidance on shaping their own pieces for publication. Each workshop will be supported by VATE staff, including Project Officer Karys McEwen, and we request that a teacher or other school staff member be present for the duration of the session. Designed to be welcoming, inclusive, and creatively energising, this workshop aims to empower students to tell their stories with clarity, confidence, and care.

## Timeline

- Submission of draft work **Friday 8 May 2026**.
- Writing workshops Term 2 2026:
  - Year 7–8 student workshop: **Monday 18 May 2026**, 3–4pm via Zoom
  - Year 9–12 student workshops: **Wednesday 20 May 2026**, 3–4pm via Zoom
- Final work submitted **Friday 5 June 2026**.
- Anthology launched Week 1, Term 3 2026.

## Student writing

Students can let VATE know whether they want their submission to be:

- **Anonymous:** Student's name and school will **not** be published with their writing in the **(human) Being** anthology.
- **Identified:** Student's name and school **will be** included with the publication of their writing in the **(human) Being** anthology.
- **Identified:** Student's name (only) **will be** included with the publication of their writing in the **(human) Being** anthology.

## Terms and conditions

- **Publication and access:** The **(human) Being** anthology will be published on the VATE website and emailed to all VATE members. It will be accessible on the VATE website in the member area. Applicants agree to VATE using their work in the anthology teaching and learning material and all related activities. VATE sees this publication as an act of solidarity and as such it may be circulated to state and territory English teaching associations via our national association AATE and shared with international English teaching associations. A copy of the anthology will be shared with each contributor.
- **Personal information:** Any information collected about participating students will only be used for purposes relating to the **(human) Being** project and will be protected in compliance with privacy laws.
- **Reporting obligations:** If anything in students' writing or participation in workshops indicates that a participating student or another student may be at risk of harm, the organisers of **(human) Being** may report this information to relevant authorities as per mandatory reporting requirements and in line with Victorian Child Safe Standards (2022).
- **Copyright:** Copyright of the **(human) Being** anthology (publication and related material) remains with VATE. Individuals retain copyright ownership of their respective pieces of work.
- **Change of mind:** Participating students reserve the right to withdraw their writing prior to the Term 3 2026 publication date.
- **Acceptance:** All works submitted will be reviewed by the project team. Only successful applicants will participate in the author workshops and have their work published in the anthology.

## Guidelines

- Entries must be **original** and created **without** the use of AI.
- Submit entries as .docx or .doc files (no PDFs or cloud links).
- Use 12pt Arial font, double spaced.

## Submissions

Please complete the application and consent form below. Please submit this completed form and student writing to [projects@vate.org.au](mailto:projects@vate.org.au) by **midday Friday 8 May 2026**.

Please print clearly

### Student

<b>Name</b>	
<b>School</b>	
<b>Year level</b>	
<b>Contact email</b>	
<b>Title of entry</b>	
<b>Identification</b>	Please indicate your preference to be identified (name/school or name only) or anonymous.

### Teacher endorsement

<b>Name</b>	
<b>School</b>	
<b>Contact phone</b>	
<b>Contact email</b>	
I confirm that the details of the student named above are correct and that the work submitted is the student's own work.	
Signed:	Date:

### Parent/Guardian consent

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Contact phone</b>	
<b>Contact email</b>	
As parent/guardian of ..... I confirm that I have read the information provided and understand what's involved and give consent for their participation in the VATE ( <b>human</b> ) <b>Being</b> anthology and workshop.	
Signed:	Date:

### For all queries

We encourage you to get in touch if you have any queries about the VATE (*human*) *Being* anthology  
Please email: [projects@vate.org.au](mailto:projects@vate.org.au).