



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 teachers

VATE members are invited to contribute to the (human) Being anthology.

This will involve the following:

- Submission of a piece of original writing.
- Editing of submission with the support of the author editor

Timeline

- Submission of draft work **Friday 8 May 2026**.
- Final work submitted **Friday 5 June 2026**.
- Anthology launched Week 1, Term 3 2026.

Teacher writing

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

- **Anonymous:** Teacher's name and school will **not** be published with their writing in the **(human) Being** anthology.
- **Identified:** Teacher's name and school **will be** included with the publication of their writing in the **(human) Being** anthology.
- **Identified:** Teacher'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 teachers will only be used for purposes relating to the **(human) Being** project and will be protected in compliance with privacy laws.
- **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 teachers 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 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 teacher writing to projects@vate.org.au by **midday Friday 8 May 2026**.

Please print clearly

Teacher

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

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.