

## **YOUNG AUSTRALIAN'S EXPERIENCES OF SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

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Controversy over the connections between religion and education about gender and sexuality in school contexts has often been in the news in Australia in 2017, triggered at least in part by debate over marriage equality. Drawing on interview and focus group data from a study entitled 'Belonging and Sexual Citizenship among Gender and Sexual Minority Youth', we examine young people descriptions of their experiences of gender sexuality education in Catholic schools in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Findings signal the challenges young people encounter in accessing inclusive school contexts, low expectations, and, point to the importance of reform in culture and curricula.