

Intersex Education in Australia:

*Rights based approach
in intersex inclusive
curricula*

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Darlington Statement

- Human rights and legal reform
- Health and wellbeing
- Peer support
- Allies
- **Education, awareness and employment**



<https://ihra.org.au/darlington-statement/>

Three Cross-curriculum Priorities



Seven General Capabilities

Eight Learning Areas

Curriculum representation

McGraw and van Leent (2018) critically examined the Australian Curriculum and found that in high school English there is minimal representation of non-heterosexual identities or people with IVSC. There is a growing collection of texts useful for critical and Socratic dialogue about IVSC, sex, gender and sexuality.



I am Me... Naturally! by Margie McCumstie 2022
- helps children understand that being intersex is natural and completely ok.



Middlesex
Jeffrey Eugenides, 2002



Golden Boy
Abigail Tarttlin, 2013



Just Ash
Sol Santana, 2021

Questions:

How can curricula support student being, belonging and becoming?

It is important to both raise awareness but more importantly the visibility of the 'I' in educational settings by appraising **the impact** of curricula on children with IVSC (Zavros-Orr, 2021).



critical curriculum
theory



critical intersex
(Holmes, 2009)



queer curriculum
theory

AHRC and intersex rights

- affirms that intersex people have the right to bodily autonomy, dignity, and freedom from discrimination.
- education must be inclusive and non-discriminatory, applying equally to all students.

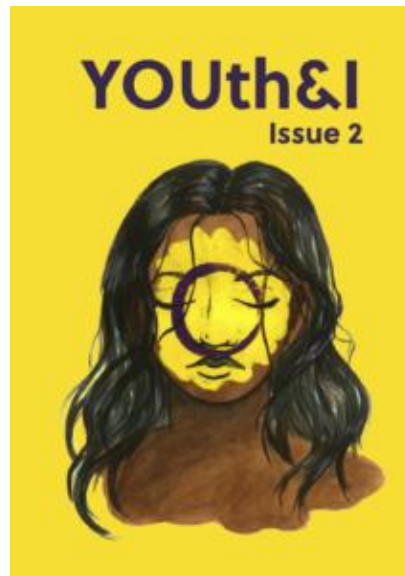
Australian Human Rights Commission (2021)



Intersex lived experience – historical artefacts



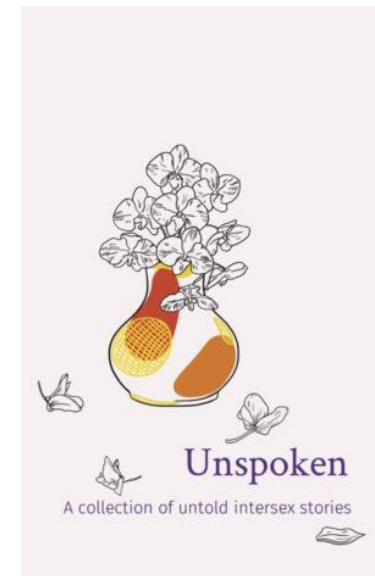
Issue 1 2019



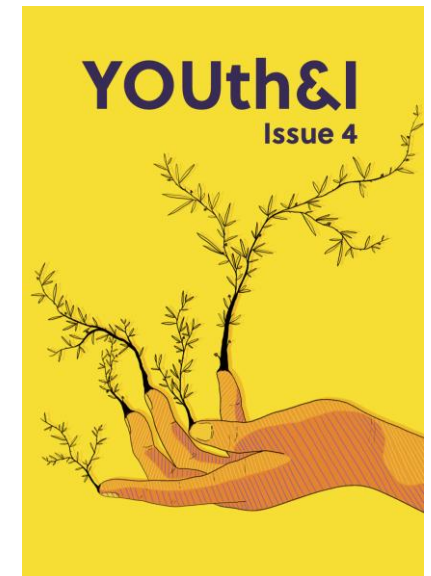
Issue 2 2021



Issue 3 2022

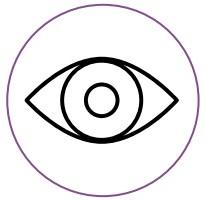


2023

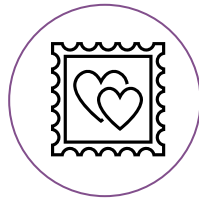


Issue 4 2024

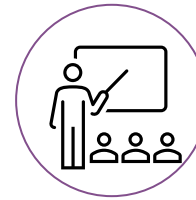
Collaboratively building understanding...



Zavros-Orr (2020; 2021)
explores the importance of
awareness and visibility and
lived in curricula



Brömdal et al., (2021) define a
whole school approach inclusive
of IVSC.



lisahunter et al., (2023) explore
issues, challenges and
opportunities in ITE-HPE.



Sequence of scoping reviews
Knowledge and Dispositions of
Caring Professionals in School
Settings regarding students with
Innate Variations of Sex
Characteristics: A Scoping Review
of Empirical Literature in Teachers
and Teaching



Re-imagining Comprehensive
Sex Education (CSE) to be
Inclusive of Intersex
Bloomsbury LGBTQIA+
Handbook series

*Socially
inclusive
futures
through the
curriculum*

Health and Physical Education (CSE)

Science (human biology)

English (literature and language)

Arts (representation of selves in time and place)

Civics and Citizenship (human rights and inclusion)

Wellbeing and pastoral care programs
(responsive trauma informed practices/dialogue)

Integration can support CSE to...

Promote physical and mental health

Empowers individuals

Enhances educational outcomes

Supports public health

Upholds human rights

*What is
needed for
efficacious
practice...*

Develop and use inclusive language and materials.

Teach about bodies in a way that acknowledges IVSC.

Focusing on respect, consent, and kindness.

Create safe spaces for questions and discussion.

Explore and develop AI chat bots for dialogue about IVSC

Term	meaning	context
assigning	?	?
affirming	?	?

*assigning vs
affirming*



references

Australian Human Rights Commission. (2021). Ensuring health and bodily integrity: Towards a human rights approach for people born with variations in sex characteristics. <https://humanrights.gov.au/intersex-report-2021>

Brömdal, A., Zavros-Orr, A., lisahunter, Hand, K., & Hart, B. (2021). Towards a whole-school approach for sexuality education in supporting and upholding the rights and health of students with intersex variations. *Sex Education*, 21(5), 568-583. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14681811.2020.1864726>

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McGraw, K., & van Leent, L. (2018). Textual constraints: Queering the Senior English text list in the Australian Curriculum. *English in Australia*, 53(2), 28–39. <https://eprints.qut.edu.au/122885/>

Zavros-Orr, A., (2021). Raising awareness and visibility of the 'I' in educational settings: an appraisal of curricula and its impact on children with an intersex variation. In *Psychology of Sexualities Review*, (12) 1, Summer, 34-48.

Zavros-Orr, A., (2020). Caring for children with an intersex variation. *The Anti-Bias Approach in Early Childhood* (4th Ed). Multiverse.