**Media Release**
February 2019

**English in Australia special issue: Love in English**

*English in Australia*, the peer-reviewed national journal of the Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE), has released a special issue of the journal on ‘Love in English’.

English teachers have always, and will always, encounter moments in the classroom to talk about love. Whether this be courtly love, romantic love, patriotic love, or love of land and the environment, opportunities abound to talk about what we love, about loving, and about being loved, and about how these things are represented using language, in texts.

It is fair to say though, that some kinds of love and ways of talking about love are more dominant than others, and that some genders and sexualities continue to be marginalised in our classrooms.

Dr Kelli McGraw, special issue editor explains, “Text lists for English historically draw a lot of public attention and as a result they tend to align with traditional values.”

“An inclusive text list that provides relatable and contemporary texts for students to read and watch would ideally present a broader range of gender and sexual identities” Dr McGraw advised.

Following the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey in 2017, the Marriage Act in Australia has been amended to allow same-sex couples to marry. In response to this significant historical moment, the ‘Love in English’ special issue asks what all this means for English teaching.

The material included in this special issue includes academic articles on issues of text selection, representation, and pedagogy as well as personal and professional reflections from teachers and education professionals.

This issue contributes to ongoing discussions about professional practice for English teachers and issues of identity that have always been central to the work that teachers do in their classrooms.

**Further information from AATE relating to this issue:**

- Position paper on ‘Censorship and text selection’
- Position paper on the Safe Schools Coalition (March 2016):

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