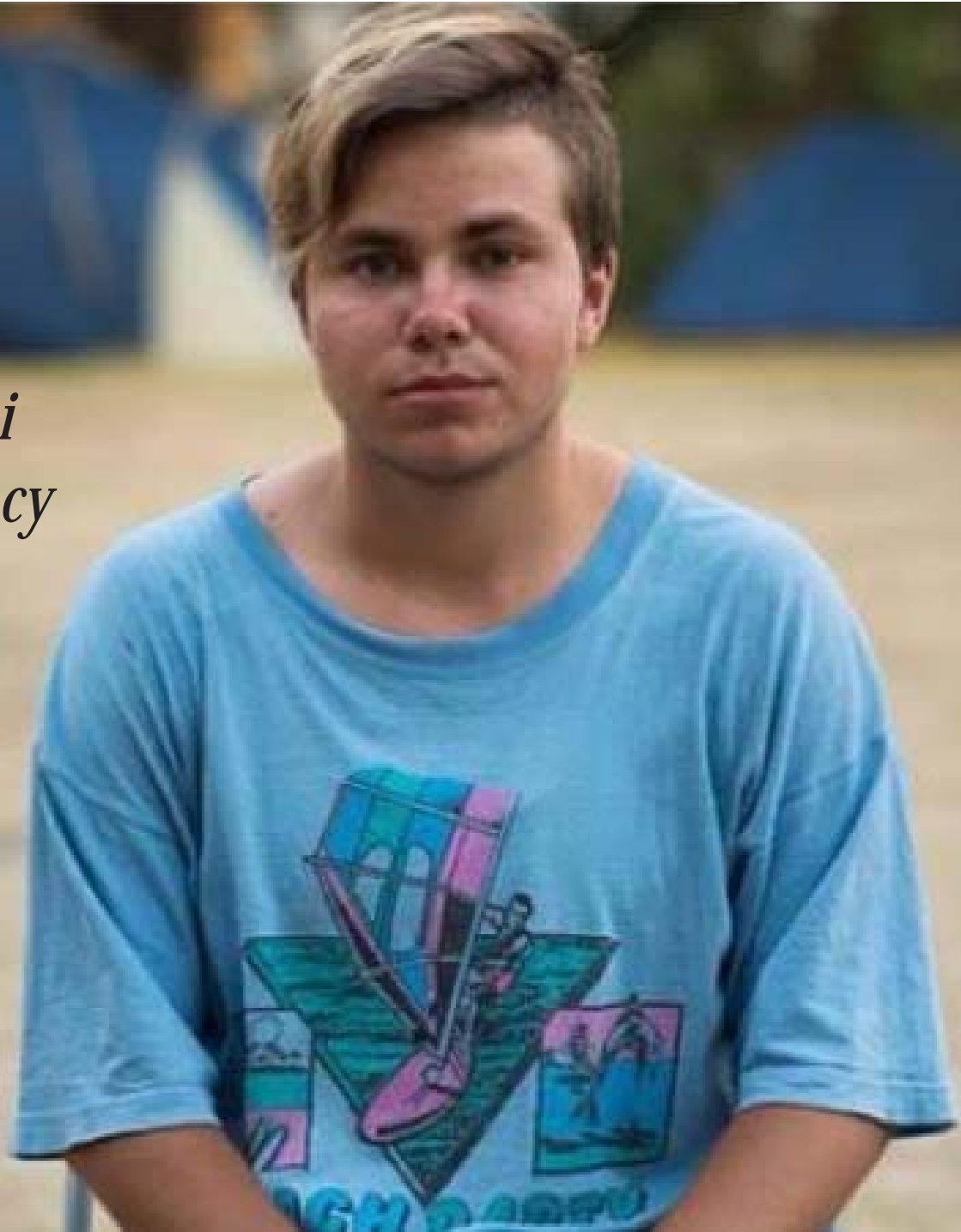


# *Polare*

*Kai  
Clancy*



**MAGAZINE OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES  
GENDER CENTRE**

**Edition 103  
April-June 2015**

The Gender Centre & Aurora Foundation present:

# *transtopia 2015*

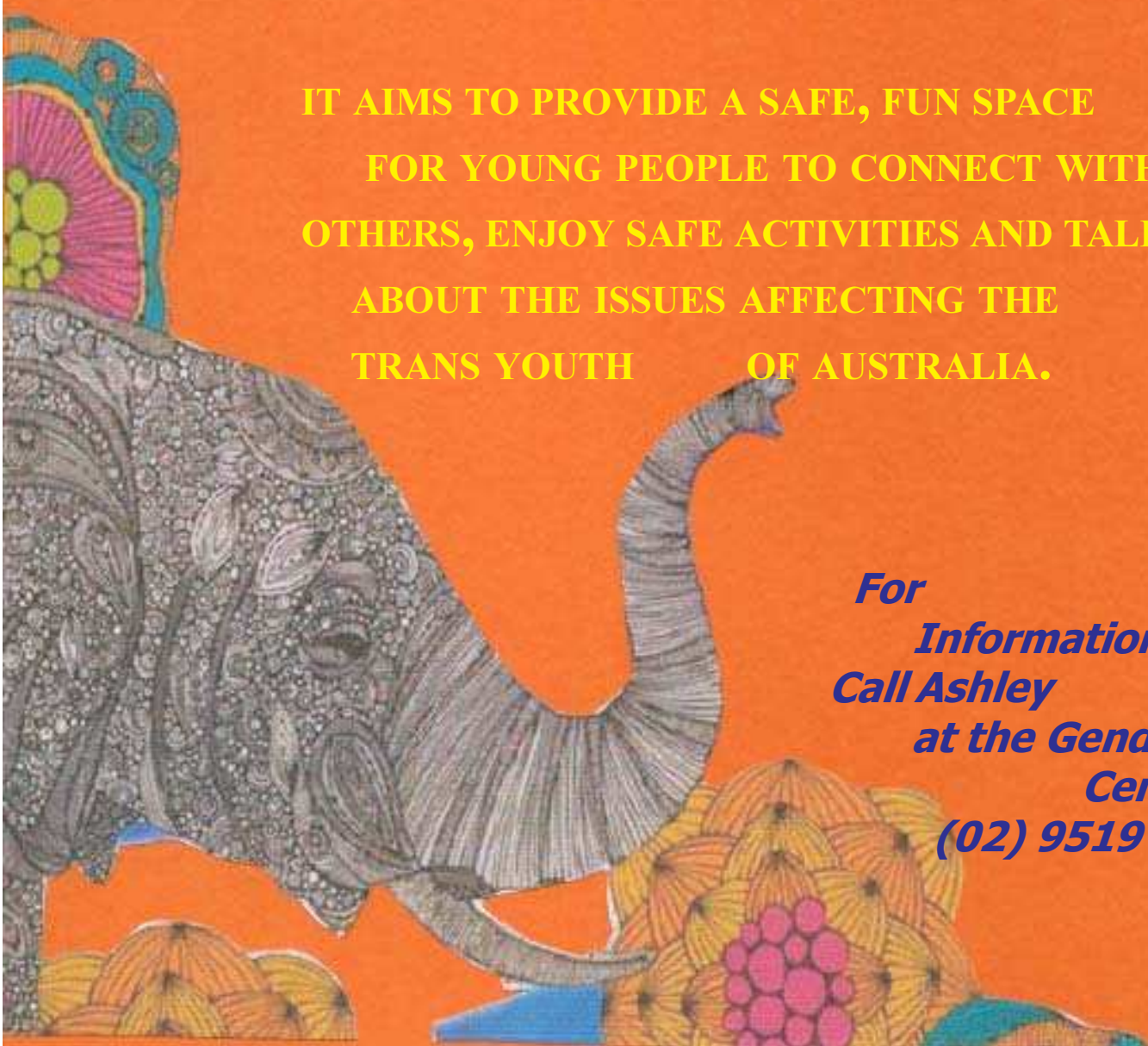
gender-questioning?

gender-queer?

‘TRANSTOPIA’ IS A MONTHLY GROUP TO BE HELD OVER TEN MONTHS IN 2015 FOR TRANSGENDER YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOURTEEN AND NINETEEN...

IT AIMS TO PROVIDE A SAFE, FUN SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS, ENJOY SAFE ACTIVITIES AND TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE TRANS YOUTH OF AUSTRALIA.

*For  
Information  
Call Ashley  
at the Gender  
Centre:  
(02) 9519 7599*





# the Gender Centre Service Magazine

The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices.

The Gender Centre is also committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues.

We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, families and organisations, and service providers.

We specifically aim to provide a high quality service which acknowledges

## the Gender Centre

The place to go for confidential, free services for people with gender issues.

---



**41-43 Parramatta Road,  
Annandale  
NSW 2038  
Mail to:  
PO Box 266  
Petersham  
NSW 2049**



**Tel:(02) 9519 7599  
Outside Met. Sydney  
1800 069 115 (9-4.30, M-F)  
Fax: (02) 9519 8200**

**Email:  
reception@gendercentre.org.au**

**Website:  
www.gendercentre.org.au  
The Gender Centre is staffed  
9am-4.30pm Monday to Friday**



### Our Services

- Support and education
- Social and support groups
- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Quarterly magazine *Polare*
- HIV/AIDS information
- Condoms and lube
- Needle exchange
- Accommodation
- Referrals to specialist counselling, medical, HIV/AIDS, education, training, employment, legal welfare, housing and other community services
- Outreach - street, home, hospital and jail
- Counselling and support groups for partners and family

### Residential Service

For all enquiries relating to the residential service, please contact us.

Cover: Kai Clancy, teenage, indigenous, FTM. Extremely active on behalf of his Brother boys, raising funds for them to attend events and providing a fine role model. Kai is making a video series based on his own transition, some of which is available on You Tube.

# Gay and Lesbian Counselling

## Telephone - Counselling:

- ❑ General line daily 5.30pm to 9.30pm  
Sydney Metro 8594 9596  
Other areas of NSW 1800 184 527

- ❑ Lesbian line  
Monday 5.30pm to 9.30pm  
Sydney Metro 8594 9595  
Other areas of NSW 1800 144 527

## GLCS also offers face- to-face support groups including:

- Talking it out - Men's Discussion Group
- Women's Coming Out Group
- SMART Recovery Program
- And other groups to be announced soon.

## For further information please contact GLCS Administration on:

(02) 8594 9500

Or via the website:

Website: [www.glcsnsw.org.au](http://www.glcsnsw.org.au)

Or by mail:

PO Box 823, Newtown, NSW, 2042



## Leaving PRISON is TOUGH... I could do with some genuine SUPPORT

WIPAN are helping

WOMEN

EX-PRISONERS

Settle back into Life on the OUTSIDE

The WIPAN mentoring program  
is a great way to get the support  
you need:

- ◆ Meet face-to-face weekly
- ◆ Get assistance to locate necessary services
- ◆ Talk confidentially about life's challenges
- ◆ Enjoy activities together
- ◆ Strengthen confidence and self-esteem
- ◆ Create mutual trust and respect
- ◆ Have a positive role model
- ◆ Develop life skills

If you are interested in having a Mentor,  
contact TARA at Women in Prison  
Advocacy Network (WIPAN)

Ph: 02 8011 0693

Mobile: 0415 454 770

Email: [mentoring@wipan.net.au](mailto:mentoring@wipan.net.au)

Website: [www.wipan.net.au](http://www.wipan.net.au)

Having a MENTOR has changed my life  
... my FUTURE is BRIGHTER than ever!

April-June 2015

No. 103

## CONTRIBUTORS

katherine cummings, anthony carlino  
loreecook-daniels, nush, christine dean, kai clancy,  
cassandra guidice

## REGULAR

- 6** Editorial by Katherine Cummings  
**9** News Items of Interest  
**11** More News Items of Interest  
**14** Stop Press [Bruce Jenner Interview]  
**15** Yet More News Items of Interest  
**34** The Emerging Needs of Gender Centre  
Clients by Anthony Carlino  
**35-38** Directory

## Deadline

for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is  
the eighth of June 2015

**Editor:** Katherine Cummings

*THE FINE PRINT*

*Polare*

**resources@gendercentre.org.au**

PO Box 266, Petersham  
NSW 2049

Phone: (02) 9569 2366

Fax: (02) 9519 8200

Email: reception@gendercentre.org.au

Website: www.gendercentre.org.au

*Polare* is published by the Gender Centre,  
Inc. which is funded by Human Services -  
Community Services and the Sydney South  
West Area Health Service.

and provides a forum for discussion and  
debate on gender issues.

Advertisers are advised that all advertising  
is their responsibility under the Trade  
Practices Act.

Unsolicited contributions are welcome  
although no guarantee is made by the  
editor that they will be published, nor any  
discussion entered into. The right to edit  
contributions without notice is reserved to  
the editor. Any submission that appears in  
*Polare* may be published on the Gender  
Centre's Website unless agreed otherwise.

© 2014 The Gender Centre Inc.

*Polare* A magazine for people with gender issues.  
Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the  
Editor, Publisher, the Gender Centre, Inc, Human Services -  
Community Services or the Sydney South West Area Health.  
*Polare* is printed in-house at the Gender Centre

## FEATURES

- 14** April NADA Forum by Nush  
**16** Kai's Story by Kai Clancy  
**17** Transgender Victoria Honoured  
**23** FORGE's Transgender Ageing Network, History and  
Resources by Loree Cook-Daniels  
**25** Respect But Do Not Revere Your Doctor  
**26** Transwomen in Sport by Cassandra Guidice  
**28** World's First Successful Penis Transplant  
**29** The Enduring Guardian by Nush  
**31** Cultures In Formation by Dr Christine Dean

## SERVICES & NOTICES

- 4** Gay and Lesbian Counselling/Women in Prison  
Advocacy Network  
**10** RPA Sexual Health Service  
**12** OII Australia/FTM Australia  
**13** Postgraduate Degrees at the UNSW Centre for Social  
Research in Health  
**18** Transgender Anti-Violence Project/Anti-Discrimination  
Board of NSW  
**20** Central Coast Transgender Support/Inner City  
Legal Centre/Queensland Gender Centre/  
ACON Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project  
**21** GC Library Appeal/Needle Exchange  
**22** Community Visitor's Scheme Funded  
**30** United Care Ageing Home Care Packages



I have complained more than once about the superficiality and lack of understanding of transgender in the media and this editorial will be no exception to my long diatribe on the topic. Perhaps the most annoying aspect is the

persistent association of transgender with the gay and lesbian community, an association which is unfortunately reinforced by some of the transgender population who do not, themselves, seem to understand the distinction between a sexuality and a gender role.

I have nothing against homosexuality of either the gay or lesbian variety (some of my best friends, etc....) and indeed my own orientation remains directed towards women which makes me a lesbian by default.

Nonetheless I find it annoying when the media encourages the mindless association of transgender, gender diversity and innate gender role with sexualities.

The use of such stereotypical assumptions can only impede progress towards a true understanding of the transgender phenomenon and should be resisted by those who no longer wish to be seen as a sub-group of the gay and lesbian world.

I thought we had been making progress in creating a more accurate understanding of the situation but it appears from various recent contacts and comments that I was wrong. Repeat after me:

*Knowing that a person is transgendered tells me nothing about his or her sexuality. A transgendered person can be straight **or** gay **or** lesbian **or** asexual **or** bisexual.*

Got it? Good.

The media, which should strive for accuracy and lead the public in its understanding of new attitudes, does not seem to build new stories on past perceptions but presents us with virtually the same story time after time, as if we were

stuck in a time warp of some kind or a gender-diverse version of Ground Hog Day.

Even where there is a clear distinction being made between transgenders and the gay and lesbian world, the media persists in repetitious and often superficial reportage of new cases as if they were somehow different from those that have gone before, rather than being part of a series that should lead logically to constructive social policies and revised legislation in order to bring about an improvement in the social, medical and legal treatment of transgendered people.

Those who care may note that I seldom refer to the transgender community. This is because a community usually tries to come together to express its commonality and sees itself as a disparate unit within society as a whole. This is true of the gay and lesbian communities, that have their social functions, their celebrations and their accepted meeting places, conventions, recognition signals and watering holes. If a gay or lesbian person comes out he or she often expresses this by moving socially from the general community to the gay/lesbian community, where she or he can derive the support and friendship he or she needs and deserves.

Note, too, that coming out as gay or lesbian requires no medical approval, no change of name or documentation and imposes no rules about marital status or proof of “irreversible genital surgery”. Nor, if the gay or lesbian person changes his or her mind, is there any impediment to a simple resumption of her or his former way of life.

Transgenders, on the other hand, may transition without “coming out” and either continue in their former mode of living (if they are lucky) or may move sufficiently far from their former lives that they can establish a new life in their new *personas*. This involves a rare level of self confidence or an established reputation which allows for examples of social non-conformity to be overlooked.

Establishing a new and separate *persona* involves the complications of revised documentation but it avoids the dangers inherent in continued association with transgender

groups who may attract unwanted attention simply because a person who is alone and shows 'unusual' characteristics of physique, voice or behaviour is less likely to be noticed than is the person who is in the company of other transgenders, creating a nexus of attention from the general public.

I am not enjoining those who are transgendered to avoid other transgenders. It is not for me to choose anyone's social company but my own. All I am saying is that you should be aware of how your group may appear (and sound) to other members of the public.

Returning to the topic of Ground Hog Day, I have noted recently a number of occasions where Group Captain (formerly Lieutenant-Colonel) Cate McGregor has been the subject of media attention. I have nothing against McGregor, who is articulate and literate (although she does say "different to" rather than "different from") and has a sense of humour. She has told her personal story effectively on more than one occasion and made interesting professional contributions to the understandably scatter-gun views expressed on the ABC's Q&A.

But the media has treated her as if she were a new and different phenomenon and this puts the general discussion back to the dawn of Ground Hog Day whereas we should be formally discussing what to do to ameliorate the forthcoming six weeks of winter if that is what the Ground Hog is predicting.

The media has said how brave McGregor is to have come out like this. Of course she is brave. It takes a tremendous amount of determination and desperation (for which read bravery throughout) to come out to one's near and dear ones, and to those who may have it in their power to ruin one's future career. But it takes the same amount of bravery for John Jones, the baker's apprentice, as it does for Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm McGregor, the Head of the Army's speechwriter and right hand man.

It probably takes even more courage for the apprentice, the student or the bus driver, who do not have powerful friends, the security of an established career and a financial base on which to build a new life. McGregor was extremely fortunate to have had the support and protection

of Lieutenant-General David Morrison, the Head of the Army, but similar favoured treatment has not been accorded to others in the armed forces who have transitioned on the job. There have been resistance and bigoted comments (I understand McGregor has received some of this Neanderthal treatment, too, but sticks and stones etc...) and only determination/bravery/lack-of-an-alternative-other-than-suicide has brought these earlier transgenders through their transitions intact.

Nor is she alone in transitioning while being in a position of responsibility and influence. There are numerous distinguished academics (Lyn Conway, Deirdre McCloskey, Rachael Padman, Raewyn Connell *et alii*) and a significant number of military heroes here and overseas who have found it necessary to emerge into the spotlight, including combat pilots, special forces personnel, the Fleet Legal Officer for the Royal Navy and many others. The late Queen Mother's personal surgeon was also tg.

There are many such examples of transgenders who demonstrate to the world their talent, courage and capacity to function in positions of responsibility, and to make creative and scientific contributions to human society.

Is it not time for the media to recognise this fact and get over the "Gee Whiz!" response to new examples? Shouldn't they be putting some effort into supporting moves to recognise being transgendered as a condition that is neither to be condemned nor praised, but accepted as just another element in the myriad of differences that humans are heir to? Transgenders still suffer stigma and are often forced to lead their lives in stealth or, worse, find themselves suffering from ignorant bigotry and discrimination. I have a friend who has been fighting for ten years for justice from her former employers who dismissed her on trumped up grounds and have ignored the fact that she has official documents relating to her dismissal that contradict each other and have been blatantly concocted to support their specious grounds for dismissal.

Isn't it time for working parties to be established in the various legislative bodies, Federal, State and Territorial, to ensure equality of opportunity

and protection for all law-abiding citizens? Admittedly we have a clunky political system, with legislatures of various stripes trying to cope with a population three times the size of New York City scattered across a land mass the size of the 48 Contiguous United States, but this is precisely where modern communications, including the media, could be used to advantage.

People are still being unfairly dismissed from employment and are being forced out of educational opportunities by the prejudices of other students and the unwillingness of teachers and administrators to take an effective stand against prejudice in their institutions. This unfairness towards any sub-group of people targeted simply for their differences is as irrational as xenophobia, or the cruel treatment suffered by past generations who suffered from conditions such as leprosy or insanity, or physical differences such as dwarfism or kyphosis (serious curvature of the spine sometimes referred to as 'hunchback'). To be different was to be mocked, punished, even tortured. So what else is new?

We are slowly pushing away these attitudes and some sub-groups of humanity have made great progress in our time, often because they simply refused to continue accepting treatment as second-class citizens.

The social (as opposed to the legal) emancipation of blacks in the United States and the Gay Liberation movement world-wide are two examples of this amelioration of prejudice as a result of determination and persistence.

Maybe it is at last time for transgenders to move into the sunlight and out of the shadows, without eliciting the half-suppressed gasps of amazement from those who should, by now, be well aware of our existence and our rights.

ABC presenter James O'Brien suggested to me in an online interview that the recent increased(?) number of celebrity transgenders (he meant McGregor and Bruce Jenner) might be an important new development in the transgender world. I

Polare page 8

April-June 2015

replied that his logic was upside-down and that the media should stop being startled that some transgenders are also celebrities and start writing stories about the hundreds of unremarkable Australians and thousands of other non-celebrity transgenders around the world who move from one gender to the other every year.

Moving on, our cover subject for this issue is a remarkable young man, Kai Clancy, an indigenous FTM who has had the energy to create a record of his progress in the use of "T" through the medium of YouTube. Kai is on Facebook and his strength and resilience bounce off every entry. It is good to see someone so young establishing his revised gender role with so much good humour and common sense. I hope we continue to hear of his progress.

At the other end of the age spectrum is an article by Loree Cook-Daniels on the subject of the ageing transgender network established by FORGE in the United States. This runs in tandem with a long-established program supporting transgenders who have suffered sexual violence (fifty per cent, according to Cook-Daniels). Unlike many self-help projects, FORGE has been supported by government grants, which are a testimony to the quality of work being carried out by the organisation.

The perennial question of transpeople's place in sport and athletic competition is raised by Cassandra Guidice and is not going to be solved until sporting and athletic bodies sit down to create a set of rules that is universally accepted, and is fair, sensible and supported by research.

Dr Christine Dean presents an interesting study on the concept of a culture without a history, using the trailblazer sessions associated with the Mardi Gras as the foundation stone for her analytical construction.

Anthony, the GC Counsellor, provides an analysis of the emerging needs of Gender Centre clients, and foreshadows the creation of a new interest group from among the Centre's clients, a group concerning itself with the concept of Queer Theory and its related complexities.

Much to think about, much to discuss.

*Katherine*





## CATHOLIC BISHOP IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN FAVOUR OF DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF SEXUALITY

Paul Given, a Democratic Unionist Minister in the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly has introduced a private member's bill, (Freedom of Conscience Bill) to the legislature, aimed at allowing people with strongly held religious views to deny goods, services and facilities to individuals on the grounds of their sexuality.

The Catholic Church has voiced concerns at the possible effects that anti-discrimination laws might have on adoptions and marriages. Bishop Treloar said, "It is important that our politicians accept there is a real problem here that needs to be addressed. Our laws as they stand are having an unjust and disproportionate impact on those of religious faith. It is as if we have swapped one form of discrimination for another.

"Is it just to have a situation where one group of people is told 'you are out' of a particular business, or 'you need not apply' for a particular job' or that 'you may not apply for public funds' simply because they hold the perfectly rational belief that marriage is between a woman and a man and that sexual relationships are reserved in their dignity and purpose for this form of married relationship?"

*[Ed. comment. Define "perfectly rational" in this context.]*

## ARGENTINIAN TRANSWOMAN WINS LIFETIME REPARATION FOR "EXISTENTIAL DISCRIMINATION"

A city court in Buenos Aires has ruled in favour of a transwoman who has been subjected to 'institutional violence, stigma and discrimination throughout her life.

The case was promoted by several human rights and trans-activist groups and there are four more litigants waiting for rulings in their cases.

The ruling includes concrete reparations. The woman will be paid the equivalent of the minimum legal wage for the rest of her life. There are two bills on transpeople's rights to be considered in Argentina. One is at the city level in Buenos Aires. The other is at the national level, promoted by trans\* organisations.

## IRISH GENDER RECOGNITION BILL INSPIRES DEMONSTRATION

The proposed Gender Recognition Bill being debated in the Irish Parliament has sparked off a demonstration at Leinster House (seat of the Parliament of the Irish Republic).

The demonstration was organised by LGBT Noise, and demanded several amendments to the legislation.

In 2007 Lydia Foy won her High Court case when a ruling was made that her human rights under the European Con-



**Lydia Foy**

vention on Human Rights had been violated by failure to recognise her as female. The full process for the Foy case took eighteen years.

This was pointed out by the Senior Solicitor for the free Legal Advice Centre, who emphasised that the transgender community has had to wait far too long for action on gender recognition legislation.



**Lynn Boylan**

Sinn Fein Member of the European Parliament, Lynn Boylan, was at the demonstration and categorised the Government's Gender Equality Bill as an insult to transgender people.

She pointed out that transgender people know their own identities and do not need medical experts to prove their identity to them or anyone else. Nor should anyone be forced to divorce his or her partner in order to have her or his gender recognised.

She said that without amendments to take care of these anomalies, the current legislation is a disgrace.

## *The Gender Centre Library*

*To borrow books you will need to become a member of the Library. You will need to supply personal details (phone number, address etc.) You can make an appointment to join and see the Library by phoning 9569 2366 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday (ask for Katherine).*

*Video tapes and dvds are not for loan but can be viewed by appointment in the Gender Centre.*

*Books may be borrowed for three weeks.*

*If you are isolated for any reason and would like to have material mailed to you, let the Resource Worker (Katherine) know. Don't forget to include your mailing address!*



## **RPA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC**

**24 Marsden Street, Camperdown, NSW, 2050**

**PHONE: (02) 9515 1200**

### **WHAT DOES THE SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC DO?**

- Testing, treatment and counselling for sexually transmissible infections, including HIV.
- Gay men's sexual health check-ups.
- Sex worker health checks.
- Men's and women's sexual health check-ups.
- Advice on contraception.
- Pregnancy testing and counselling.
- Free condoms and lubricant.
- Needle and syringe program and sexual health check-ups for people who inject drugs.
- Hepatitis testing and vaccination.
- Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU VISIT THE CLINIC FOR THE FIRST TIME?**

You will be asked to fill out a registration form. The information you give us will remain confidential and will be put in a numbered file. Keep this number and quote it for any test results and when making future appointments.

A nurse will determine whether you need to see a doctor or nurse for a medical issue or a counsellor to discuss information on sexual health, safer sex or relationship issues.

### **SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Do I need an appointment? *Yes, an appointment is preferable.*

Do I need a Medicare card? *No, you don't need a Medicare card.*

Do I need to pay? *No, all services are free.*

Do I need a referral from a doctor? *No, simply call 9515 1200 for an appointment.*

**Interpreters  
available.**

## US ARMY APPROVES HORMONES FOR CHELSEA MANNING

The US Army has now approved hormone therapy for Chelsea Manning, jailed for leaking national security secrets. The commandant of Fort Leavenworth, Col. Erica Nelson, says the treatment is medically appropriate and necessary.



**Chelsea Manning**

Manning is not allowed to wear female clothing, other than underwear, and is not allowed to grow her hair or use other forms of feminine grooming.

Fort Leavenworth is an all-male prison.

*The Guardian* has announced that Manning will be writing for them. Her occasional opinion pieces will deal with topics such as gender, freedom of information and war.

## TRANSGENDER CHARACTER VENUS VAN DAM IS BREAKOUT STAR FOR “SONS OF ANARCHY”

Actor Walton Goggins, who plays the transgender sex-worker character Venus Van Dam in “Sons of Anarchy” has achieved unlooked-for but very welcome popularity with the viewing public and entertainment press.



**Venus Van Dam**



**Walter Goggins**

Anarchy”.

Goggins was offered the part because he had taken very masculine, even brutal, parts in “The Shield” and “Justified” and the producer (Kurt Sutter) felt he was too recognisable from the earlier parts to be convincing if he were to appear as a new (male) character in “Sons of

What started as a joke between Goggins and Sutter crystallised into a firm offer for Goggins to play the transgender character in the fifth series of “Sons of Anarchy”.

The role continued in the sixth series and has now been confirmed for the seventh. When news of Van Dam’s continued inclusion broke there were enthusiastic headlines in the press. *Entertainment Weekly* said “No matter how dark things get on ‘Sons of Anarchy’, just remember Venus Van Dam is on the way.” There has been a growing suggestion of a romance between Van Dam and biker Tig Trager, played by Kim Coates.

Goggins expressed a hope that Van Dam will be a survivor. He says he didn’t much care when his earlier characters died as it made it easier to walk away from the part. But he says that Venus is different.

“She’s touched a different, a real place in me that I just didn’t know existed. She’s allowed me to see the world through her point of view. It’s forever changed me; I get emotional thinking about it. She is here and present and I think the fact that she’s transgender is just awesome.”

[Ed note. Oh, for a few more people like Walton Goggins!]

## UK LIBERAL DEMOCRATS CHOOSE TRANSGENDER ZOE O’CONNELL AS CANDIDATE FOR PARLIAMENT

Zoe O’Connell, transgender activist, has been nominated by the Liberal Democrats in Britain to stand for Parliament in the forthcoming election.

She is the fourth transgender candidate to be nominated for this election, joining Labour’s Emily Brothers and the Greens’ Charlie Kiss and Stella Gardiner.

O’Connell feels it is a good sign that transgenders are standing for election, and being endorsed by the established parties. She also feels that same sex marriage legislation was not fully satisfactory as it allows for Spousal Veto. She also feels the Equality Act and Gender Recognition Act were flawed and are in need of amendment.

For Those Who Live On The  
Central Coast of NSW

**The DeepWater Practice in  
Woy Woy, run by Melissa  
Turner, has agreed to bulk-  
bill counselling clients who  
come with a GP referral and  
who mention that they are  
also clients of the Gender  
Centre.**

**Deepwater Practice,  
Unit 2, 101 Blackwall Road,  
Woy Woy.  
Ph: 4344 7386**

## **Do You Believe You Are Intersexed?**

**If so and you would like to know  
more and meet others like  
yourself then contact:**

OII Australia

[Organisation Intersexe  
Internationale]

at PO Box 1553, Auburn, NSW,  
1835 or at:

**[oii australia@bigpond.com](mailto:oii australia@bigpond.com)**

**or visit our website at**

**[www.oii australia.com](http://www.oii australia.com)**

**Except for serious emergencies,  
please make an appointment  
before coming to the Gender  
Centre. We are glad to help you if  
we can, but if someone else has  
booked the time you may miss out.  
Phone 9569 2366**



2015

FTM Australia is a membership-based network offering contact, support and information for men identified *female* at birth, their families, friends, healthcare providers and other professionals.

### **Network News E-Bulletin**

FTM Australia publishes a free regular electronic bulletin - *Network News*. To subscribe :

[http://www.ftmaustralia.org/  
publications/network-news-subscribe](http://www.ftmaustralia.org/publications/network-news-subscribe)

### **OzGuys Email Discussion List**

Our national email discussion list is called OzGuys and it is open to anyone transitioning female-to-male, undergoing medical treatment and social transition in Australia or New Zealand.

For more information please visit::

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/ozguys/>  
or contact the moderators on :  
[mail@ftmaustralia.org](mailto:mail@ftmaustralia.org)

### **Social Media**

FTM Australia maintain an active social media presence. Our Facebook page is at [http://www.facebook.com/  
ftmaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/ftmaustralia) and our Twitter is:  
<http://twitter.com/FTMAustralia>

### **FTM Australia website**

To find out more about female-to-male transition, or resources or to make contact, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.ftmaustralia.org/>

## Postgraduate degrees at the UNSW Centre for Social Research in Health\*

The Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH) is seeking passionate, engaged and motivated applicants for our MA by Research and PhD degrees who are interested in understanding and influencing change in the fields of health, sex, drugs and risk:

*<http://csrh.arts.unsw.edu.au/education-training/postgraduate-research/>*

Based in Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW Australia, a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8) key teaching and research universities in Australia, our research degrees provide the skills needed to undertake high quality research, contribute to academic and policy debates, and inform best practice.

We welcome applications for research into the social and cultural aspects of HIV, sexual health, sexual practices, viral hepatitis and drug use but also encourage proposals in related areas of education, health and wellbeing, and from a diversity of social and behavioural science perspectives.

Students form an integral part of our diverse community of talented supervisors and researchers, and develop close relationships with community organisations, health and education service providers and policy makers, to inform the quality of their research and strengthen the impact and relevance of their research findings.

To learn more about getting started, visit:

*<http://csrh.arts.unsw.edu.au/education-training/postgraduate-research/getting-started/>*

Note: Applications for APA scholarships (for domestic students) **close 17 October 2014** for first semester 2015 admissions. A second round then opens for second semester. UNSW International Research Candidate Scholarships are listed here:

*<http://research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-research-scholarships>*

**(\*Formerly the National Centre in HIV Social Research)**

I hope to have the pleasure of meeting some of you in the near future. My name is Nush and I'm a Social Work student undertaking my placement at the Gender Centre. On Thursday 16 April Liz Ceissman took me to the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) Working with Diversity in Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Settings Forum. NADA is a resource that has been developed to support non-government services that work with a diversity of clients from the NSW population. As this was my first ever attendance at a forum, I was wide eyed and excited.

A forum is basically a get-together with those in the field, with presenting speakers. In this case, a number of different speakers discussed working with diversity, and the respective approaches and information. It started with the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) discussing best practice when working with Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. They highlighted the importance of working within a framework that recognises, respects, and supports cultural competency.

There were six presentations that day, including Liz representing the Gender Centre. I will not attempt to deal with the complexities of all the presentations, but I do want to commend Liz for her presentation on working with transgender and gender diverse people. She discussed the topic with tact, and did a stand-up job representing the Centre. This isn't an isolated occurrence as, on top of the work that goes on in the Centre, Liz goes out and educates in forums, workplaces, and schools. The feedback received from those in attendance echoes my sentiments.

The techniques and information that I learned from my first forum aren't necessarily limited to any particular group or diversity. They can be used in my day-to-day life, as well as my time at the Gender Centre. My time at the Centre is my first student placement, but I am, so to speak, dipping my feet in the pool of casework. I don't have all the answers, and I don't know all the processes, but attending the NADA conference is the first of many exercises I hope to use in building my social work skills. I'm excited to continue my learning, and applying it usefully in the future.

## Stop Press: 26th April, 2015

I just watched a segment of Bruce Jenner's interview with Diane Sawyer, relayed from the United States onto our Channel Seven. It was, however, a superficial extract from an interview which ran, in its entirety, for two hours.

Jenner said very little we don't already know first-hand (the feeling of gender dysphoria had been with him since childhood, he feels feminine inside no matter what he looks like on the outside etc.) but some of my contacts in the United States have watched the whole interview and been touched by Jenner's situation. So they should be.

Yet the fact that this Olympic gold-winning decathlete, more recently associated with a so-called reality show, should be the subject of world-wide notice by virtue of a characteristic experienced by thousands worldwide each year simply reinforces my view that the media, and many of those who watch the media, are still dazzled by irrelevance and fascinated by "Gee Whiz!"

KC

Polare page 14  
April-June 2015



**A.I. Electrology.**  
A.A.B.Th. CIDESCO, ITEC (France)

211 Wyea Rd Wyea 2259. Tel: (02) 43572221.  
Email: aie101@exemail.com.au  
http://www.aielectrology.com.au

---

**The only proven method of  
PERMANENT  
Hair Removal.**

*employing:*  
The Apilus SE Blend system and  
Gentronics MC160 series Blend,  
Multi Probe & Galvanic Epilators  
from the USA & Canada.



Fully Trained and Certified Electrologists  
NSW Health Dept Skin Penetration Certified.  
15 years of service to the public.  
For further details and prices, contact  
Ainsley Israel or Shirley Hogue.  
02 43 572221 or 0412-637726.



*Midmark M9 Autoclave Sterilisation used in this salon.*

---

Salon Bookings taken from  
10.00 AM until 7.00 PM Mon to Thurs

Subsidised Rates apply for anyone undergoing the Gender Reassignment

## TRANSGENDER WOMEN TAKE 'SELFIES' IN MEN'S TOILETS

Canada and a number of American State and local legislatures are considering, or have passed, legislation mandating that members of the public using gendered public toilets and change facilities must use the facility allocated to their birth gender.

This fatuous use of legislation to ensure the continuance of discrimination and bigotry has resulted in a backlash from transgenders who are taking 'selfies' in the toilets the law would have them use rather than those appropriate to their gender roles.

One of these is 23-year-old Brae Carnes who is taking selfies in men's toilets to draw attention to what she calls a 'disgusting' and 'ridiculous' amendment to a trans-rights bill.

Brae began posting selfies of herself in men's toilets to point out how awkward it is 'for everyone', when she applies her makeup in the mirror while men use the urinals.

The Canadian House of Commons passed a Bill in 2013 adding gender identity to their Human Rights Act. Conservatives then amended the Act to exclude all sex-specific facilities such as toilets and prisons.

Senator Don Plett brought out the old, unbelievably foolish, suggestion that allowing transgender women to use female toilets would allow pedophiles to take advantage of the legislation.

Carnes points out that the reverse is true, namely that if transwomen who are living in a female gender role, and may have been for years, are forced to use men's toilets this may be seen as an invitation to predators who assume that a woman in men's space is looking for sexual action.

Other women have also taken up the challenge in some of the American States or local administrations that have passed similar laws.

## TRANSGENDER WOMAN REFUSED ACCESS TO THE WESTERN WALL IN JERUSALEM

Kay Long, a transgender woman, approached the Western Wall (also known as the Wailing Wall or the Kotel) in Jerusalem but was denied entrance by one of the administrators of the area who refused to believe Long is female, based on the fact that she is taller than most women.

Embarrassed, she walked towards the men's segment of the wall, only to be shouted at by Orthodox men that the women's section was elsewhere.

Long respected the wishes of the Orthodox men and the Orthodox woman who had first denied her access, but is quoted as saying, "From a young age we learn that if we place a note at the

Kotel our prayers might be answered. All that's left now is to take a picture and say a prayer from afar with the hope that it will one day be answered. Because God is everywhere and loves us all."

So much for freedom of religion and

freedom of access to holy places. Who makes the rules? Does power always rely on force?



Brae Carnes taking selfies in a men's toilet



Kay Long at the Western Wall

I was given the name Kaitlyn when I was a baby, but I guess that isn't my name any more. My name is Kai now, I'm nineteen years old, and I'm from the Wakka Wakka and Wulli Wulli nations. My story is that I've always felt unhappy about being identified as a girl, I felt like I was in the wrong body. When I was seventeen I set out on a journey to feel comfortable and have my appearance reflect how I felt on the inside, so I transitioned from female to male.

It was a really difficult decision to start the process. It was my first year out of high school and those first six months were horrendous. I didn't know what was wrong with me. When you're in an institution that's so gendered, there are pressures to conform, but when you leave that, there's nothing. There are no pressures and you can be yourself. But for me, being myself was really hard. That in-between period was really difficult. I kept asking myself, "How am I really going to do this?" It started to make sense, and I realised that I needed to do it for my own welfare. That's when I came out as transgender.

The reaction from my Indigenous community was OK. They've seen people who are male-to-female transgender, but they'd never seen female-to-male, so it was a bit foreign to them, but they've learned to understand it and accept it. Even though I still get called "sis" here (in Melbourne) and back at home.

I grew up in North Queensland and Townsville, and there were always a lot of blackfellas and family around me. Being a kid was fine, I fitted in with the boys, but when I got to puberty, I got really depressed. My mates were changing and I was changing in a different way. I remember thinking if I'm different from these guys, and I'm not one of those girls, then what the hell am I?

The other time I remember being segregated from my mates for being different physically was Corroboree. For as long as I can remember,

being separated by gender during ceremony and Corroboree would upset me because I was being taken away and put into a group where I didn't belong. But I did it because that's what my elders told me to do.

When I decided to transition, I asked for their permission about ceremony and they gave me guidelines about what I could and couldn't do. Being older now I do gender-neutral dances where girls and guys dance at the same time. That's what I limit myself to these days. I'm still learning, it's still a journey, but it feels right.



I was four years old when my mum first thought I could be transgender. It was the first time I had come across someone who seemed to be transgender but they weren't, they were intersex. Their story was part of a *60 Minutes* episode in 2000 about how surgical intervention is taken out on young intersex children and left them confused if they didn't identify with the gender assigned to them post-op. As a result they transitioned from their assigned gender to another—in this instance it was female to male. When I saw that, I asked mum if they did that (surgical intervention) to me when I was a baby. That was my understanding of transition, it didn't sit right with me. I was told intersex people had a medical reason to feel that way.

Before I transitioned I looked naturally feminine with long blonde hair, I was really petite. I told my friends about my feelings first and they didn't get it straight away, but the more they started to understand and take note of my behaviour the more it started to make sense that I was just different from them.

My own community in Queensland has been really supportive, and in Melbourne they're great. The Melbourne mob here didn't really know that I was transgender, they've always known me as Kai. For the Brisbane mob it's a bit different, they knew me as Kaitlyn and I think it's a bit hard for them to get their heads around it sometimes. But they're good, they're really



supportive generally. All the Sistergirls and Brotherboys [names given to transgender Indigenous Australians and support groups] are really lovely, and some of them are like big sisters or cousins to me. They're role models, and they look out for me.

The transgender community knows discrimination when they see it, and it's very rare for them to discriminate against other people. They're pretty open about my Aboriginal identity and they accept it, no questions asked. But there are still some instances where there's a little bit of racism.

I've been making YouTube videos since I began my hormone replacement therapy. I love being able to show how much I've changed. It's good for me and it's good for other people too, I guess. I use it to document my progress and see all the differences in myself over time, but for other people it's a really good resource for motivation, and a referral tool for other people who might be going through the same thing.

Lots of transgender guys do those videos, the transition is so physical, and you can see the differences in hormone treatment over time. It's an amazing transition.

I've always been somewhat confident, my friends will

tell you that. But I guess this confidence is more enhanced now because I'm more confident in myself. I was pushing myself beforehand, I used to force myself to be confident, now I feel like it comes naturally because I'm being who I am. There's less discomfort in myself, I feel like I'm more at one with myself, and I know who I really am now.

I'm living in Melbourne now and working at the Victorian Aids Council on an Aboriginal project. I've almost finished a political science degree, majoring in international relations and public policy, and I do a lot of Aboriginal politics stuff around the town, especially back in Brisbane, like the G20 and Invasion Day.

I really can't predict the future for myself. I just hope that I'm still happy. I am happy now.

□□□



*Kai's Story* and photographs are reproduced by kind permission of Kai

### Transgender Victoria Honoured

Transgender Victoria won the Community Organisation Award at the annual Human Rights Awards night on December 10 last year.

Sally Goldner, Executive Director of Transgender Victoria accepted the award on behalf of the organisation. Transgender Victoria has been in existence for fifteen years and Goldner feels the honour will “empower and encourage” the organisation.

They haven't called, they haven't written...

The Editor welcomes contributions from our readers. Letters, articles, opinions and life experiences are all welcome.

stand tall  
against  
violence



# TAVP



## Transgender Anti-Violence Project

**Have you experienced an incident where you felt discriminated against, harassed, victimised or unsafe because of gender identity?**

***You are not alone! And it is NOT your fault.***

By reporting transphobic incidents, we can support you and try to stop it happening to someone else.

*If it is an emergency: call the police on 000.* Otherwise, contact the TAVP: ph: (02) 9569 2366, email: [tavp@gendercentre.org.au](mailto:tavp@gendercentre.org.au)  
online: [www.tavp.org.au](http://www.tavp.org.au)

or the Gender Centre on ph: (02) 9519 7599,  
email: [reception@gendercentre.org.au](mailto:reception@gendercentre.org.au)

**Don't put up with it — Don't let them get away with it**

# **STOP** DISCRIMINATION

**Contact the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW**

### **Get free confidential advice**

Phone (02) 9268 5544 or 1800 670 812 for people outside Sydney.

If you need an interpreter call 131 450 first. TTY 9268 5522.

Email [adbcontact@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:adbcontact@agd.nsw.gov.au)

### **Make a complaint**

Visit our website at: [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb)

to download a complaint form.

Email [complaintsadb@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:complaintsadb@agd.nsw.gov.au)



“I was filling out the form  
and it said “Tick ONE box:  
male OR female!””

Talk to someone  
who gets it...



**Imanadari Counselling**  
DIVERSITY POSITIVE COUNSELLING

0448 006 961 | [imanadari.com.au](http://imanadari.com.au) | [imanadari@gmail.com](mailto:imanadari@gmail.com)  
Broadway, Glebe

**The ACON Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project can be contacted on (02) 9206 2116 or Freecall 1800 063 or [avp@acon.org.au](mailto:avp@acon.org.au)**

### **QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE**

The Queensland Gender Centre is run solely by a transsexual in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia with the aim of assisting those in need of accommodation and assistance. It is open to all those who identify as transsexuals and who are mentally stable and drug and alcohol free.

The location of the shelter is kept confidential to protect the tenants. The accommodation is in an upmarket suburb on Brisbane's upper north side.

You can stay either up to six months or twelve months and we can house up to six people at a time.

If you want more information or are interested in assisting with the project, please telephone, write or email the Queensland Gender Centre. PO Box 386, Chermside South, QLD, 4032. Tel:(07) 3357 6361

## ***Central Coast Transgender Support***

*The CCTS is a totally free and unfunded service to all with gender issues. It offers guidance to all who are contemplating commencement of the medical and psychological requirements that are involved in full MTF transition under the World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care (formerly known as the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care).*

*The Centre also provides access to high quality, subsidised and certified permanent hair removal and offers alternative direction and instruction for the control and management of problem hair or chronic hirsutism.*

*CCTGS operates Monday to Saturday 10am-10pm*

*Ph:0404 054 000*

*Email:[smh101@exemail.com.au](mailto:smh101@exemail.com.au)*

## **LEGAL PROBLEMS?**

**The Inner City Legal Centre will be providing advice sessions for clients of the Gender Centre.**

**The ICLC can advise in the following areas:**

**family law | criminal matters | fines | AVOs | victim's compensation | employment | identity documents | police complaints | discrimination | domestic violence | sexual assault | complaints against government | powers of attorney | enduring guardianship | wills | driving offenses | credit and debt | neighbourhood disputes**

**Dates for 2015 have not been set but sessions will be held monthly. To make an appointment please contact a Gender Centre Staff member on 9569 2366 or email [reception@gendercentre.org.au](mailto:reception@gendercentre.org.au). Bookings are essential.**

### **NOTE**

For after-hours counselling contact Lifeline on 131 114 or Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service 5.30pm-10.30pm seven days on (02) 8594 9596 or 1800 105 527 [www.glcsnsw.org.au](http://www.glcsnsw.org.au)

**FREE!**  
**HOME TUTORING IN READING AND  
WRITING FOR ADULTS  
(nights preferred)**  
**Call Margot 9335 2536  
or Mim 9335 2350  
@ Petersham TAFE**

### ***PARENTS OF TRANSGENDER CHILDREN***

**The Gender Centre hosts an  
information and support group for  
parents who have children (any age)  
who are transgender or gender diverse.**

Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each  
month from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. A clinical  
psychologist will co-facilitate these meetings.

**A light supper will be available.**

**Contact Liz or Anthony on 9569 2366**

**The Gender Centre is a  
Needle Exchange and  
operates Monday to  
Friday from**

**9.00am to  
4.30pm.**

A confidential  
free service for people  
with gender issues (ask for the  
Outreach Worker)

Sharps containers, pill filters,  
syringes (1ml, 2.5ml, 5ml), needles  
(21g, 23g, 25g, 26g), condoms,  
spoons, water, fit packs, swabs,  
dams.

Or phone the Alcohol and Drug  
Information 24 hr advice,  
information and referral service,  
Sydney (02) 9331 2111 Country  
009 42 2599



### **Change of Mailing Details?**

- Different name?
- Different address?
- Different gender?
- Don't want *Polare* in the future?

My **OLD** details:

My **NEW** details:

Mail to: The Editor, *Polare*, PO Box 266,  
Petersham, NSW, 2049

### ***GC Library Appeal***

If you have books you no longer need and  
feel they would be of interest to the  
Gender Centre clientele, we would be  
very glad to receive them, process them,  
and place them in the Gender Centre  
Library for Gender Centre users to read,  
for entertainment or information.



Contact Katherine on 9569 2366 (Mon,  
Wed or Friday) or just drop them in  
marked to my attention. Thanks!

Katherine Cummings

## **Community Visitors Scheme Funded**

**ACON is pleased to announce that it has been successful in receiving funding for the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) from the Federal Department of Social Services.**

**The ACON Community Visitors Scheme will match volunteers to older people from sexuality and gender diverse backgrounds who are experiencing social isolation. Recipients of this new ACON service will need to be in receipt of a Commonwealth-subsidised Home Care Package and will be visited in their own homes by our CVS Volunteer at no charge to them or to the Home Care Package providers.**

**What is the CVS?: The aim of the ACON CVS is to foster the development of companionship and friendship for individual recipients, by linking them with regular volunteer visitors. Additionally, the development of the friendship assists in linking the recipient with her or his local community. ACON CVS Volunteers will be sensitive to the particular needs of older LGBTI people.**

**During 2014/15, the ACON CVS service will be rolled out throughout much of metropolitan Sydney and will also extend to parts of the Nepean, Illawarra, Central Coast and Hunter regions.**

**More info: If you know of someone who could benefit from establishing friendships or would like to discuss the possibility of becoming an ACON CVS Volunteer with the service, please call:**

**Contact: Adrian Eisler**

**Tel: (02) 9206 2028**

**Email: [communityvisitor@acon.org.au](mailto:communityvisitor@acon.org.au)**

It started in 1994 with a progressive and yet, in retrospect, modest goal: gather together female-to-male (FTM) individuals and their partners for support group meetings in Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Twenty-one years later that part of our work is still going on, but it's only a small fraction of what FORGE does now.

FORGE became the first transgender-specific organisation to receive direct funding from the U.S. Federal Government in 2009, when we accepted two grants to start addressing the needs of the half of the transgender population that has survived sexual assault.

One program (which we're still funded for) provides direct support nationwide to transgender sexual violence survivors: an online writing-to-heal course, peer support, information and referrals, self-help guides, and other services.

Recently we launched the Espavo Project, which features photographs of trans\* sexual assault survivors and supporters and pairs them with a statement of their resilience ("espavo" means "thank you for taking your power").

The second grant focused on improving the ability of professionals to provide respectful, trans\*-savvy services to transgender sexual violence survivors. Subsequent grants have expanded our training scope: we now focus on professionals who provide services to survivors not only of sexual assault, but also domestic and dating violence and stalking.

Over the past few years we've developed an online archive of training webinars that are available to *anyone* who is looking for anything from a Trans 101 to a very sophisticated view of, say, the service implications of working with someone who is not just trans\* and a violence survivor but also disabled, or the role that a history of sex work may play when a trans\* survivor seeks healing.

Our initial goal, to forever dismantle the excuse, "training on transgender people is too expensive and hard to schedule", has definitely been met (the archive is available free at all times), but we are still adding on an approximately monthly basis to the store of what's available. We have

also produced a number of publications for professionals (all available online, including the Office for Victims of Crime's title "Responding to Transgender Victims of Sexual Assault" at [www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/index.html](http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forge/index.html)).



**Loree Cook-Daniels**

There are more than a dozen scheduled for release in 2015.

Our work for trans\* victims of violence pays the bills, but two of our "side jobs" are close to my heart since they've been part of my working life for more than forty years. One focuses on making federal policy changes that improve the lives of trans\* people and our families. In coalition with the National Center on Transgender Equality and other national LGBT groups, we have made it easier to change names and gender markers on federal identification papers; expanded the number of health care programs that will cover trans-related health care and surgery costs; enacted protections for transpeople in housing, education, criminal justice, and victim services; and much, much more.

Because of our work, we are being invited to sit at an increasing number of tables where high-level government and non-government experts are shaping policy on matters related to elder housing, services to male victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, making services trauma-informed, and helping LGBT youth caught up in the juvenile justice system.

These invitations will help ensure that when new policies are enacted, they take into consideration the specific needs of transgender people and their families.

The second "side job" involves the Transgender Aging Network (TAN), which I founded in 1998. I had been working on lesbian and gay ageing issues since the late 1970s, and was especially known for my work on LGBT elder abuse. When ageing colleagues began hearing that my partner had transitioned female-to-male in 1995, they asked me what was different

## Issue One Hundred and Three

about transgender ageing. I didn't know, so I founded TAN to try to network anyone I could find who was interested in the topic in order to pool our knowledge. We quickly attracted a number of trans elders who had questions about their own transitions. We spun off ElderTG to provide peer support to trans people aged over fifty, and their close SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies). The group voted to not admit any researchers or professionals, and to be firm on the must-be-fifty rule.

In the sixteen or so years of ElderTG's existence so far, it has helped hundreds of trans\* elders through their transitions, and provided the sole link to other transpeople (and, sometimes, any other humans!) for many others. ElderTG has also led to three marriages and is credited with saving another (by the wife of a male-to-female person who swears she would not have been able to stay through her partner's transition without the support of her ElderTG buddies).

TAN itself continues along, although it has evolved (who hasn't?!). There is still a listserv for professionals and others who are interested in trans\* ageing issues, although it is very low volume and consists mostly of announcements of new resources, articles, and surveys.

In 2000 TAN became a program of FORGE, whose website now hosts our archive of free materials that we developed over the years. We have some trans\* ageing webinars available on demand, such as "Violence and Trauma in the Lives of Transgender Older Adults" (<http://forge-forward.org/event/trauma-and-aging/>) and "Transgender 101 for LGBT Aging Professionals" (<http://forge-forward.org/event/transgender-101-for-lgbt-aging-professionals-nrcla/>).

Available articles address transgender ageing basics ("Transgender Elders and SOFFAs: A Primer" at: [http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/TransEldersPrimer\\_REV\\_3hole\\_2009-04-12.pdf](http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/TransEldersPrimer_REV_3hole_2009-04-12.pdf)) and special topics such as "Abuse and Violence Directed Against Transgender Elders" at <http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/Abuse-and-Violence-Directed-at-Transgender-Elders.pdf>.

Polare page 24  
April-June 2015

TAN has also sponsored many training workshops and even all-day training intensives over the years for audiences of both trans\* and ageing professionals. We have also consulted on a number of national LGBT ageing projects that have wanted to include more trans voices.

Our reputation, plus a growing awareness that trans\* ageing issues are not necessarily the same as LGB ageing issues, paid off when in 2009 the U.S. government issued a request for proposals to establish a national resource centre on LGBT ageing issues: three organisations approached TAN to request we partner with them! We went with the ultimate winner, SAGE USA, as one of its original eight partners. This group spent months developing two consensus training curricula – one for aging professionals on LGBT issues and one for LGBT organisations on ageing issues – that are completely trans-inclusive. In the subsequent years, TAN has helped develop additional training modules/webinars on Trans ageing 101 and creating organisational and service environments that prevent and address bias.

We've also written several key publications that are available on the resource centre's website ([www.lgbtagingcenter.org/](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/)) including, "I Have a New Trans Client: Now What?" for ageing services workers who are new to trans\* issues, and "Transgender Older Adults and Medicare Fraud Prevention," helping trans\* elders protect themselves from fraud. The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging houses as many LGBT-aging publications as it can find, including the reports on a number of collaborative efforts TAN has been involved in. One established a trans\* ageing advocacy agenda: "Improving the Lives of Transgender Older Adults: Recommendations for Policy and Practice"

([www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/pdfs/TransAgingPolicyReportFull.pdf](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/pdfs/TransAgingPolicyReportFull.pdf)).

Another reports on the results of an inclusive, nationwide survey of LGBT elders, "The Aging and Health Report: Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults," at:

[http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/pdfs/LGBT%20Aging%20and%20Health%20Report\\_final.pdf](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/pdfs/LGBT%20Aging%20and%20Health%20Report_final.pdf).



A third collaborative example is the training video the U.S. government put together for long-term care facility staff on how to care respectfully for their LGBT residents. That is available at:

<http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/training/buildingRespect.cfm>

There has never been a better time to be both transgender and ageing. FORGE's Transgender Aging Network is proud to have played a part in making that happen.

#### SIDEBAR:

FORGE website:

[www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org)

ElderTG listserv:

<http://forge-forward.org/aging/listservs/>

TAN listserv:

<http://forge-forward.org/aging/listservs/>

FORGE Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/FORGE.trans](http://www.facebook.com/FORGE.trans)

FORGE Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/FORGEforward>

FORGE Instagram:

[http://instagram.com/forge\\_forward/](http://instagram.com/forge_forward/)

## Respect, But Do Not Revere, Your Doctor

**respect: the condition of being esteemed or honoured** [Macquarie Dictionary Rev.ed.]

Doctors of medicine go through long years of arduous training and physical endurance that would be beyond many of us. In addition they must accumulate vast amounts of knowledge and be prepared to analyse a situation on the basis of symptoms or stigmata that come close to duplicating other symptoms and stigmata. They must also keep up with new developments in techniques and the ever-burgeoning pantheon of pharmaceutical drugs. Only today it was announced that a well-known athletic foot cream can stimulate the cells of the brain and reverse some of the effects of multiple sclerosis. Who would have guessed? So respect them. They are remarkable human beings.

Why do I tell you this? Because for some time various doctors (including my endocrinologist) have been telling me I have a heart murmur. It sounded rather romantic and nobody ever went on to tell me it might be the precursor of a heart attack and the most likely outcome at this stage is that my aortic valve may have to be replaced (it was the one murmuring, the romantic little devil).

This either means the insertion of some form of mechanical device (inorganic) or the insertion of a valve from some other organic entity, probably a pig. I wonder how Animal Rights people feel about this? I'm not too happy about

it myself but in the larger scale of things I feel the most human thing a person can do is be creative, which in my case means writing. I don't know any pigs who write as well as I do, so, sorry, pig, but that's the way it goes. Oink!

**revere: to regard with respect tinged with awe** [Macquarie Dictionary Rev.ed.]

If my respect for the medical profession had not been so deep-seated I might have asked more questions about my murmuring heart and taken more care of it and myself. I might even have read up on the topic (although this can be a trap. As Alexander Pope was wont to say "A little learning is a dangerous thing"). But at least I would not have treated a serious problem as flippantly as I have been.

As Information Worker for the Gender Centre I am often approached with questions about hormones. What should be taken? How much? The only sensible answer is to tell people to go to an endocrinologist and follow the recommendations of an expert. Existing hormone levels need to be taken and hormones, like so many pharmaceuticals, seem to change almost daily, with new additions to the list, with some older hormones being removed as better options are discovered or malign side-effects are revealed over time. Self-medication is foolish and dangerous. Which reminds me. Where did I put that pig?

KC

*Cassandra: What insights have you been able to glean about the participation of trans women in sport?*

**Lauren:** According to a number of women I have spoken to, sport and group physical activity allowed them to finally feel connected with themselves and aided their transition.

These women were finally able to be true to who they are and be involved in a sport and group physical activity that interested them. Both sport and group physical activity were seen as facilitators to feeling connected with not only other people, but with oneself.

While sport and group physical activity allowed all of these women an opportunity to improve their physical and mental health as well as build social networks that persisted beyond the activity itself every woman I have spoken to agreed that Australian sporting organisations do not do enough for the transgender population.

Australia's transgender population are not silent, in fact they are very vocal even though they are one of the most marginalised demographics in our society. There needs to be more done for sport involvement of this group.

It's great that so many organisations have created legislation saying that trans people are entitled to play, but what good is that if they do not feel welcome.?

There is still a stigma surrounding some sports and in order for it to change there has to be a discussion, an open door to talk about these issues.

**C: Do you perceive that there is discrimination against trans women in**

*sport? Are you able to offer any insights concerning the perception of trans women in sport and their experience of discrimination in sporting arenas? Can you give any examples?*

L: There is certainly still discrimination against trans women in sport. Even though we are starting to see progress with legislation, public awareness and acceptance there is still a lot of improvement needed.

**One of the main reasons that trans women face discrimination in sport is due to the myth of their having a physical advantage.**

**A lot of trans women are forced to explain and defend themselves because of the misguided idea that they have a physical advantage over genetic women due to testosterone levels.**

**What the public is unaware about is that hormone therapy actually suppresses testosterone levels.**

For example: one woman I spoke to loved playing tennis but other people at the club complained about how she kept winning because of her unfair 'advantage'. The club decided that she could only continue to play if she swapped from playing with her right arm to her left.

It took multiple meetings and the involvement of doctors before the situation was corrected and she was allowed to play right-handedly. Once people were educated and aware that transwomen do not have an advantage almost every trans woman was accepted and welcomed.

My research has shown that sporting environments can help facilitate transwomen and gives them an opportunity to not only

improve their health physically and mentally but also to increase their social connection within their community.

***C: Do you think that trans people are more or less active than the rest of the population? Is obesity a problem for trans people?***

The type of active lifestyle differs quite a lot for trans people from the rest of the Australian population. A large number of trans people restrict themselves to solo exercise for a variety of reasons. Some feel unsafe, unwelcome or they are unsure of where they are able to go to compete or engage in physical activities with other people.

Over the years we have seen an increase of trans people competing more within sporting environments.

The exact numbers are unknown because not everybody wishes to identify as trans or be open to others as trans for a variety of reasons which is completely their choice.

I would not say that obesity is a concern for trans people, whilst they may be at higher risk of gaining weight due to the effect of hormone therapy.

This can easily be avoided with regular exercise and a healthy eating lifestyle just like any other person.

***C: Do trans people participate in sport more, or less, after their transition?***

I would say that trans people participate in sport and group physical activity almost equally before and after their transition for a variety of reasons. From my research we have learned that sport and group physical activity environments were used to help create and

maintain a character before transition for quite a number of people.

Australia has such a strong sporting culture and a lot of trans people that I have spoken to acknowledged that it was almost the perfect way to blend into society because by playing sports that were typical for one's biological gender they believed it would stop their family, friends and community from questioning them.

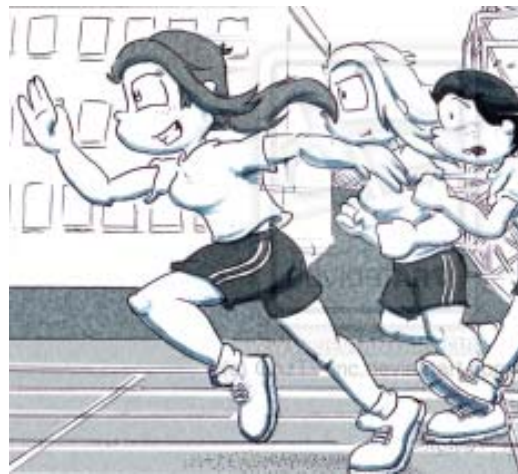
In contrast sport and group physical activity allows a lot of trans people to not only keep fit and active after their transition but allows them to make connections with people who share similar interests and build those friendships. The real issue for sport participation is during the transition phase.

There is a great necessity for programs and support services during this time period and a lot of trans people become inactive or revert to solo exercise during this phase because they have nowhere to go where they are welcome nor safe.

***C: Do you have any insights/observations about the participation of transwomen in sport/exercise more generally? In your research have transwomen made any observations/comments about their diet and how that is affected by hormonal changes?***

L: This will always vary with every person. Some may crave more food while others prefer less. However, with most of the women I spoke to with my research they found that they were gaining weight and losing muscle mass once that started hormone therapy.

This was because they were eating more, especially unhealthy, foods which they usually would not eat but due to both cravings and the changes within their body this was happening.



This weight gain in turn led a lot of these women to begin exercising to improve their body image and self-esteem.

Most of the women I spoke to highlighted the need to keep physically active due to the effects that the hormones were having on them both physically and mentally.

Achieving congruency between their self-identified gender and biological sex takes a massive toll on a trans individuals both physically and mentally. The changes to one's body are foreign; health and body image were major concerns for every person I have spoken to.

***C: What else can you tell us about the participation of transwomen in sport?***

**L:** One of the most surprising things that came out of my research with trans women in sport and group physical activity is the impact and role it plays on their voice and vocal communication. A common strategy amongst transwomen to increase adherence and encourage themselves to practise their vocal

skills was through their engagement at their respective clubs and/or classes. The women discussed how constant interaction with a wide variety of people supported their attainment of female communicative behaviours, through receiving positive affirmations of their communication abilities from class/team-mates. This reinforcement was in relation to their appearance, voice and body language.

Being given the opportunity to practice female communicative behaviours during practice, games and club functions was considered to be important by participants, as this allowed them an opportunity to successfully communicate. My research also revealed that being around predominately female sporting and/or classroom environments allowed trans women to consciously and subconsciously learn how to communicate as females. They explained that they observed how other women speak, the language they use, the emotion and articulation of conversation in a real life setting, resulting in an improvement of their own feminine communication.

---

## World's First Successful Penis Transplant

In 1967 Christian Barnard led a team of surgeons in South Africa to accomplish the first successful heart transplant, an unheard-of operation at that time but now one that is everyday and commonplace.

In March 2015 another South African team announced the world's first successful penis transplant.

The penis was transplanted from a dead donor to a young man who had lost his penis following complications resulting from a botched circumcision (shades of the Riemer case). The transplanted penis is said to be fully functional both for urination and as a sexual organ.

One of the problems was finding a donor and in order to gain approval from the donor's family it was necessary for the surgical team to create and attach a fake penis for the donor out of

abdominal skin. This is odd, to say the least. If the donor had donated his kidneys, heart or corneas, say, would the family have been so insistent on the supply of a substitute? Of course not. The question is one of visibility (though viewing of the deceased seldom goes as far as this would imply) and/or the weird veneration accorded to genitalia, which are set aside for special consideration, whether the question is replacement or removal.

An earlier attempt in 2006 resulted in apparent success but after ten days the transplanted penis was removed, due to the psychological discomfort of the recipient. The head of the surgical team, Andre van der Merwe, noted that the operation is especially relevant in South Africa due to 250 penile amputations caused annually by Xhosa ritual circumcision.

Katherine Cummings

# The Enduring Guardian by Nush

Many people create wills as a form of forward planning but often they fail to make provision for the contingency that they might reach a stage where they are unable to make decisions for themselves as a result of an illness or accident although they are still living. In such cases it is possible to appoint in advance someone to make certain decisions for you when you don't have the capacity to do so yourself. This person is known as an Enduring Guardian.

## Why is this something to consider?

People often assume you can turn to your next of kin in scenarios that demand this kind of action, but this is not always the case. Your next of kin might be estranged, or may not have your best interests at heart. Your next of kin may not be supportive of your gender expression or your transition and, given the capacity, could make decisions that would compromise these. They could, for example, make the decision to place you in a nursing home under your birth sex and assigned gender, rather than your identifying gender.

## Who are they?

It's up to you. You should choose carefully and understand the roles and responsibilities involved, and trust your nominee to make decisions in accordance with your best interests. A person is not eligible to be your Enduring Guardian if he or she is involved, in a professional or administrative capacity, in your medical services, accommodation, or any services that support your daily living. Neither can an Enduring Guardian be a relative of someone providing these services to you. It can be more than one person, working together or having discrete areas for decision-making.

## What decisions can they make?

Again, it's up to you. Keeping in mind that your Enduring Guardian can only make decisions that relate to your health, lifestyle and medicine, he or she takes on the role of a 'substitute decision maker'.

You're able to choose what areas of decision-making you feel comfortable in entrusting to another person. Most commonly, it's where you live, the health care you receive, the personal services you receive, and consent to treatment.

The Enduring Guardian cannot create nor alter a will, manage your finances, consent to your marriage, vote on your behalf, or give consent to medical treatment to which you have already objected.

## How do I appoint someone?

In NSW, a legal form of appointment needs to be completed. This is obtainable from the website [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/opg](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/opg). Once you and the person(s) concerned have completed the Enduring Guardian Appointment form, it will need to be signed off by you in front of a witness to ensure that the Enduring Guardian fully understands her/his role. The witness can be a legal practitioner, Registrar of the Local Court, or approved officer from NSW Trustee and Guardian. This original form should be stored in a safe place, generally with other legal documents.

## Want more information?

Go to one of these sources:

Phone: (02) 8688 6070

Toll free: 1800 451 510

Fax: (02) 8688 9797

Postal address: Locked Bag 5116, Parramatta, NSW, 2124

## From the *Transadvocate*:

**Q: How many trans people does it take to change a light bulb?**

**A: Only one, but he or she has to live for a year in the dark to be completely, absolutely, *sure* the light bulb needs changing and then must have the confirming opinions of two electricians, one of whom must have a PhD.**

Ask  
UnitingCare  
about how  
we can help  
LGBTI people  
live at home  
for longer

UnitingCare Ageing have a number of Home Care Packages available specifically for the benefit of the LGBTI Community.

If you are over 65 years of age, identify as LGBT and have low to high care needs, then one of these government subsidised packages could provide you with cost effective care in your own home that will help you to live independently.

For information or assistance call 1800 486 484 or visit us at [unitingcareageing.org.au](http://unitingcareageing.org.au)

ABN 78 722 539 923



## NOTE!!

**THE GENDER CENTRE HAS MOVED!  
THE BENT STREET PREMISES WERE VACATED ON  
FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER 2014 AND  
THE GC RE-OPENED ON WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER  
2014 AT THE NEW PREMISES, 41-43 PARRAMATTA  
ROAD, ANNANDALE.**

**A populist landmark is the McDonalds on the corner of Bridge Road and Parramatta Road. The Gender Centre is on the other side of the road from McDonalds and about 150 metres uphill from the corner (i.e. moving away from the City).**

***NOTE:***

**THE MAILING ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 266, PETERSHAM 2049  
remains unchanged**

**THERE IS A NEW PHONE NUMBER 9519 7599  
AND A NEW FAX NUMBER 9519 8200**

# Cultures in Formation by Dr Christine Dean

*Cultures in Formation: Queer Thinking and Gender Trailblazers, forums held at the Seymour Centre; Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2015*

Although *Queer Thinking* and *Gender Trailblazers* were separate events they were programmed to run consecutively as part of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras cultural festival. Both were held at the Seymour Centre and many of the participants attending the various conferences and performances stayed throughout the day and into the evening.

As a keen observer of *Queer Thinking* and *Gender Trailblazers* I was left asking the question “do gay, lesbian and transgender cultures represent a state of continuity or rupture?”

Over the past few years it’s been interesting to observe the increasing gravitational pull of the Mardi Gras on transgender communities. More recently the relationship between gay, lesbian and transgender identities has generated a series of debates, and gained momentum after last year’s Mardi Gras parade and cultural festival. As a result of these debates some differences of opinion have emerged as to the relevance of their marriage.

This article looks at the limitations and also at the possibilities informing these debates in the context of *Queer Thinking* and *Gender Trailblazers*.

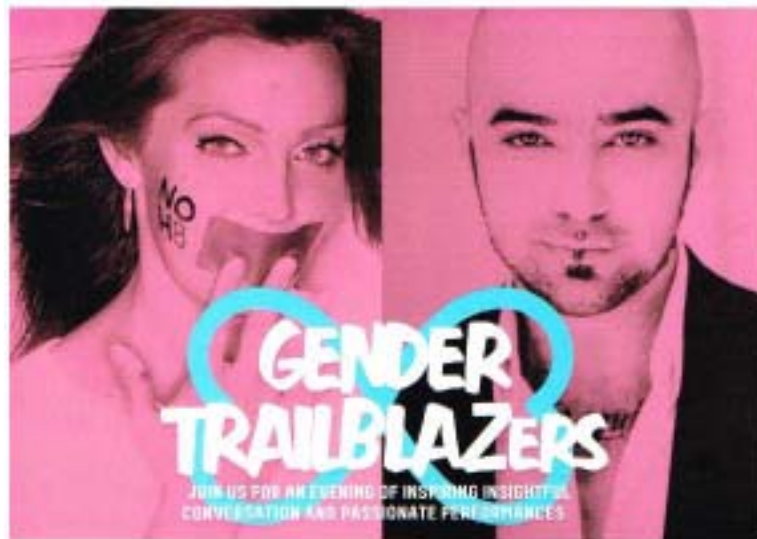
One side of the argument maintains that transgenders have nothing in common with gays and lesbians because gays and lesbians are identified by their sexual preferences while transgenders are identified by their gender identities. Alternatively a counter-argument suggests that gays, lesbians and transgenders

are linked through their shared histories, cultures and aesthetic sensibilities as well as the laws governing their lives. If one takes the sex versus gender position then transgenders are obliged to either form their own cultures or assimilate into the mainstream, as was the case in the past. Interestingly these debates mirror the evolution of feminist thought, namely the emphasis second wave feminism placed on physiology as opposed to the emphasis third wave feminism places on sociology.

Through an increasingly critical and contemporary interpretation of the cultural logic of transgender experience a less isolated and more inclusive position emerges as evidenced by the coupling of *Queer Thinking* and *Gender Trailblazers*.

With the rise of Queer Theory in the 1990s, for example the writings of Judith Butler and Kate

Bornstein, a more comprehensive interpretation of so-called “sexual and gender outlaws” emerged. It was based on the idea that everyone performs his or her identity, even the least likely candidates, hetero-



sexual men.

Queer Theory maintains it is through the compartmentalising of cultures that misunderstandings occur and as a consequence marginalisation arises. This was the case in the 1980s when the then, “Gay Mardi Gras” was renamed the “Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras” in an effort to include same-sex attracted women.

From today’s perspective it would be hard to imagine the Mardi Gras as a male only event. In time the organisation might be renamed the “Sydney Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Mardi

Gras” in honour of the contributions made by generations of transgenders since its inception in 1978.

Leading American academic and queer theorist, David Halperin, has been teaching a course called *How to be gay* at the University of Michigan since 2001. More recently his findings have been published in a book of the same name. Halperin’s thesis suggests being gay isn’t merely about one’s sexual orientation but more importantly about one’s cultural orientation. This argument lets gays and lesbians off the hook when it comes to their individual identities and collective cultures being defined exclusively by a single issue, namely sexuality. When applied to transgender identities a similar cultural logic emerges and rather than being exclusively defined by one’s gender, the trans\* experience becomes about one’s existence and subjectivity as defined through cultural practices. The coupling of *Queer Thinking* and *Gender Trailblazers* demonstrates this point.

Having looked at the similarities linking gay, lesbian and transgender cultures it’s also important to discuss some of their differences. The main site of difference relates to the way many if not the majority of the individual symposia forming *Queer Thinking* were about the past while most of the discussion relating to *Gender Trailblazers* was about the present.

Throughout the day I enjoyed listening to the stories of the original participants in the 1978 Mardi Gras; the biographical narrative attached to the eccentric gay collector ‘Auntie Steward’ who lived in the San Francisco Bay Area from the 1920s to the 1980s followed by reminiscences about the political antics of Pauline Pantsdown in the 1990s, tapping our toes to the beat of “I’m a backdoor man” while others reflected upon the history of Anti-LGBT violence in Sydney.

Pleasurable and inspiring as these events are, they remind me of feminist conferences most of which spent a great deal of time splitting hairs relating to events in 1973 or was it 1972?

The main cause of the increasingly retrospective, if not nostalgic, character of gay culture is due to the flood of publications relating to gay and lesbian histories/herstories since the 1980s. In Australia many publications have been written along similar lines to their US counterparts since the 1990s, and all the while gay and lesbian narratives have been slowly joining the mainstream historical accounts of the past.

In contrast only a handful of books relating to transgender history have been published and outside the field of transgender biographies historical information relating specifically to the Australian experience is thin on the ground.

The idea of a culture without a history evokes terror and fascination, yet it is this phenomenon that propelled the dynamism of *Gender Trailblazers*. Although the event ran for only two hours it seemed to go on forever and by the

## The idea of a culture without a history evokes terror and fascination ...

end of the night my fingernails were sunk deep into the crimson velour armrests of the Seymour Centre’s seats.

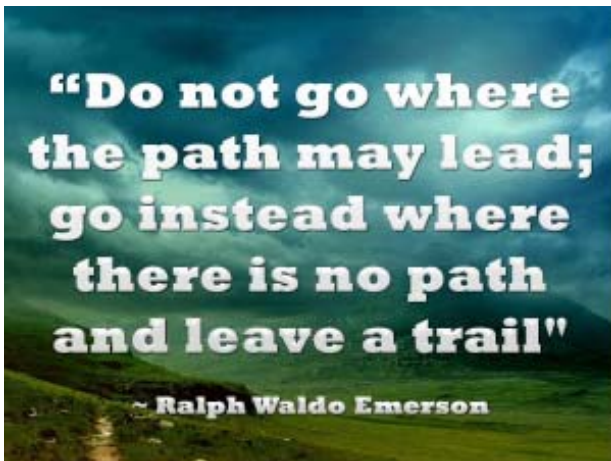
Last year’s *Gender Trailblazers* seemed to be more official, whether it was because of the design of the auditorium or was in some way connected to the keynote speakers, Cate McGregor and Chaz Bono. It’s hard to say and thankfully neither of the pair attempted a floorshow.

Although *Gender Trailblazers* was content rich, it lacked a printed program identifying the many speakers and participants involved in its various events.

One concern evoked by the use of the term ‘trailblazers’ is its strange choice of terminology as a concept for a title, because many of the speakers and performers, including Paige Elliot Phoenix, transitioned recently.

According to my dictionary a trailblazer is a pioneer or an individual who initiated something in the past. If transgender culture lacks an official history the use of the word trailblazing can be seen as an subconscious attempt to establish one.





Trailblazing can also be viewed as a generational concept and in the future it may well be the case that individuals who gain recognition through popular or celebrity culture may be destined to become important figures in history.

*Gender Trailblazers* commenced with a series of short prepared speeches by a variety of speakers and ranged from highly personal accounts of gender transitioning to objective and professional interpretations of the status and location of transgender experience in contemporary culture.

This was followed by a panel discussion where the participants were asked to respond to a series of thoughtfully structured questions. The third part of the session was devoted to presenting a biographical outline of the life of Roberta Perkins, although a greater emphasis could have been placed on discussing her writing and research. The fourth part of the event involved individual question and answer sessions between Elizabeth Riley and Calpernia Addams, Paige Elliot Phoenix and Aram Hosie and in the final part of the evening Calpernia Addams and Paige Elliot Phoenix performed individually and as a duet.

The events organiser, Kelly Glanney, timed the event to perfection and throughout the night the audience witnessed one of the most informative and moving events one is ever likely to encounter. It's unfortunate it couldn't have been structured to run for an entire day as there was more than enough content on offer.

From the start the personal and professional narratives of individual speakers were inspirational. The panel discussion was also

thought provoking, demonstrating the diversity of transgender experience from a multi-generational perspective, although it seemed a bit rushed. Similarly the session about Roberta Perkins was fascinating as it contained many personal anecdotes and stories and perhaps in the future a more detailed analysis of the political and sociological dimensions of Perkins' scholarship and activism will be revealed. A highlight of *Gender Trailblazers* was the individual discussions between Elizabeth Riley and Addams, Phoenix and Hosie. Riley's engaging questions drew a great deal of information from the guest speakers, providing the audience with fascinating insights into their lives, experiences, attitudes and personal philosophies. When the event culminated with performances by Calpernia Addams and Paige Elliot Phoenix, I kept pinching myself, asking "Is it all a dream?" Addams' stage presence was commanding and her angelic, yet melancholy, voice entranced the audience.

As an event *Gender Trailblazers* was much more engaging, entertaining and provocative than *Queer Thinking*. Throughout the event I kept wondering whether, as a consequence of the seismic shifts in Australian culture, *Queer Thinking* would have more closely resembled *Gender Trailblazers* if it had been staged thirty years ago. At times I felt like Virginia Woolf's Orlando as I watched three hundred years pass by in an instant. If Orlando had attended *Gender Trailblazers* would she, too, have recalled the experience as a witnessing of a culture in formation?



Dr Christine Dean teaches Art History at the National Art School and Interdisciplinary Design at the University of Technology, Sydney.

# The Emerging Needs of Gender Centre Clients

by Anthony Carlino

Having just pushed past four years as the Gender Centre Counsellor (has it really been that long?!!!) and being privileged to support so many wonderful people, I have noticed some changes in the individuals who use the service and the ways in which they identify. From the large increase in the number of young people confident enough to openly define themselves as transgender, and the increase in families who are already very well-informed and supportive of their loved ones' transitions, there can be little doubt in my mind that the changes reflect a growing understanding and acceptance of gender variance by society.

**One of the more recent trends is the increasing number of people seeking support for their gender-queer identities.**

Genderqueer is a catch-all term most often used for those who feel that their gender identities do not fit into the socially constructed "norms" associated with their biological sex.

I frequently encounter discussion topics from these individuals concerning the unique needs and issues of this group, which often differ from those who identify more neatly into binary notions of gender. A brief summation of some of these topics is:

1. There is an ongoing lack of awareness about genderqueer issues from medical practitioners that often results in genderqueer people being treated with prejudice due to misconceptions.

This, in turn, affects the quality of medical services provided and can include increased resistance to their seeking hormone replacement therapy if the medical staff concerned accept and understand the existence of only binary transgendered people.

2. Societal lack of awareness with regard to genderqueer people, including accusations of non-existence. This can result in genderqueer

individuals feeling compelled to fit within binary gender categories and this can subsequently cause great distress.

3. The unique challenges presented by existing as a minority within a minority, including transphobic views held by cisgendered and transgendered people.

4. A lack of research on gender-queer people, which makes it difficult to identify clearly the needs of this community.

These are only a few of the challenges faced by genderqueer people. The Gender Centre has recognised the needs of this group as important and notes the emergence of these needs as more and more people come to accept their gender non-conformity.



**Anthony**

For that reason, I am proud to announce that on 2 March 2015 the Gender Centre has now started a monthly Genderqueer Support Group. Please check the website for information or contact the Gender Centre on 9519 7599 for details. ☐☐☐

## **Be Part of the Action!**

**Can you write? Would you like to write something for *Polare*?**

**We are looking for writing that expresses some of the viewpoints we seldom see, like the views of younger gender diverse people.**

**Email :**

***resources@gendercentre.org.au***  
**or call 9519 7599**

## A.C.T.

### AGENDER AGENDA

works with the sex and gender diverse community. This includes transsexuals, transgender people, intersex people, cross-dressers and other non-gender conforming people. We acknowledge the important role that partners, family members and allies play and these people are specifically welcomed as part of our community.

PO Box 4010, Ainslie, ACT, 2602  
Ph: (02) 6162 1924  
Fax: (02) 6247 0597  
Email: support@genderrights.org.au  
Website: www.genderrights.org.au

### AIDSACTION COUNCIL OF ACT

The AIDS Action Council of the ACT provides information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support services for people living with HIV/AIDS  
Westlund House, Acton, ACT 2601  
GPO Box 229, Canberra, ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6257 2855  
Fax: (02) 6257 4838  
info@aidsaction.org.au

### SWOP ACT (SEX WORKER OUTREACH PROJECT)

Provides services for people working in the sex industry in the ACT.  
Westlund House,  
16 Gordon Street, Acton.,  
ACT, 2601  
GPO Box 229, Canberra, ACT, 2601  
Tel: (02) 6247 3443  
Fax: (02) 6257 2855  
E-mail:  
aacswoop@aidsaction.org.au

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### NSW GENDER CENTRE

#### Counselling

Provides counselling to residents and clients living in the community. For more information or an appointment contact the Counsellor on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 10am - 4.30pm.

#### Outreach service

Available to clients in the inner city area on Tuesday nights from 6.00pm to 2.00 a.m. and on Thursdays from 10am - 5.30pm by appointment only. Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Friday 10am - 4.30pm. Also available to clients confined at home, in hospital or gaol - by appointment only. For an appointment contact Outreach Worker - 9569 2366.

#### Social and support service

Provides social and support groups and outings, workshops, forums and drop-ins. For more information contact the Social and Support Worker. 9569 2366

#### Resource development service

Produces a range of print resources on HIV/AIDS, medical and other information relevant to people with gender issues and their service providers. We provide printed information including a quarterly magazine *Polare* and a regularly updated website at: www.gendercentre.org.au. For more information contact the Information Worker on Monday or Wednesday 9569 2366

#### Drug and alcohol service

Provides education, support and referral to a broad range of services - By appointment only. For an appointment contact the Outreach or Social and Support Worker 9569 2366

#### Residential service

Provides semi-supported share accommodation for up to eleven residents who are sixteen years of age or over. Residents can stay for up to twelve months and are supported as they move towards independent living. A weekly fee is charged to cover household expenses.

Assessments for residency are by appointment only and can be arranged by contacting the Counsellor, Outreach Worker or

Social and Support Worker 9569 2366.

#### For partners, families and friends

Support, education and referral to a wide range of specialist counselling, health, legal, welfare and other community services are available for partners, families and friends of people with gender issues. For more information contact the Social and Support Worker 9569 2366.

#### For service providers, employers and others

Advice, support and workshops are also available to employers, service providers, students and other people interested in gender issues. For more information contact the Manager, Gender Centre, 7 Bent Street or PO Box 266, Petersham NSW 2049  
Tel: (02) 9569.2366  
Fax: (02) 9569.1176  
manager@gendercentre.org.au  
http://www.gendercentre.org.au

### 010 - TWENTY10

#### (incorporating the Gay and lesbian Counselling Service of NSW)

A community-based, non-profit support organisation for people of diverse sexes, sexualities and genders, their families and communities across NSW, providing telephone counselling (all ages), support groups, community education and a range of specialised support services for young people (12-26 years old). For support call 1800 184 527 (QLife, daily, 5.30pm-10.30pm) or (02) 8594 9555 (Sydney) or 1800 65 2010 (regional NSW), Twenty 10, 10.00am-5.00pm Mon-Fri.

Admin enquiries (02) 8594 9550  
Email: info@twenty10.org.au  
Website: www.twenty10.org.au

### ACONHEALTHLTD

Information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support for living living with HIV/AIDS. 41 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2011 or POBox 350 Darlinghurst, NSW 1300  
Ph: (02) 9206 2000  
Fax: (02) 9206 2069  
tty: (02) 9283 2088

### ACON-HUNTER

129 Maitland Road or PO Box 220, Islington, 2296  
Ph: (02) 4927 6808  
Fax: (02) 4927 6845  
hunter@acon.org.au  
www.acon.org.au

### ACON-MID-NORTH COAST

Shop 3, 146 Gordon St  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444  
Tel: (02) 6584 0943  
Fax: (02) 6583 3810  
mnc@acon.org.au  
POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

### ACON -NORTHERN RIVERS

27 Uralba Street  
Lismore NSW 2480  
PO Box 6063  
South Lismore NSW 2480  
Tel: (02) 6622 1555  
or 1 800 633 637  
Fax: (02) 6622 1520  
northernrivers@acon.org.au

## AFAO (AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS)

National AIDS lobby and safe sex promotion organisation.  
PO Box 51  
Newtown 2042  
Tel: (02) 9557 9399  
Fax: (02) 9557 9867

## ALBION STREET CENTRE

HIV testing, clinical management, counselling and support, treatment and trials for HIV/AIDS.  
Tel: (02) 9332.1090  
Fax: (02) 9332.4219

## ANKALI

Volunteer project offering emotional support for People Living with HIV/AIDS, their partners, friends and carers. One on one grief and bereavement service.  
Tel: (02) 9332.1090  
Fax: (02) 9332.4219

## BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION (BGF)

Provides direct financial assistance, financial counselling, employment support and supported housing to people in NSW disadvantaged as a result of HIV/AIDS  
Ph: (02) 9283 8666  
free call 1800 651 011  
www.bgf.org.au  
bgf@bgf.org.au

## BREASTSCREEN

Phone 132050

## CENTRAL TABLELANDS TRANSGENDER INFORMATION SERVICE

Provides information and directions for anyone seeking medical or psychological assistance in changing gender. Provides information on gender friendly services available in the Bathurst, NSW Area. Provides support and understanding for families and friends in a non-counselling atmosphere.

Operates 9 am - 8pm Mon - Fri  
Tel: 0412 700 924

## (CSN) COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

Transport and practical home based care for PLWHA. Volunteers welcome. Training provided.  
Sydney Mon-Fri 8.00am-6.00pm  
9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills  
Tel: (02) 9206.2031  
Fax: (02) 9206.2092  
csn@acon.org.au

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

## Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 9204 2400  
Fax: 9891 2088  
csn-westsyd@acon.org.au  
6 Darcy Rd, Wentworthville, 2145  
PO Box 284, Westmead, 2145

## Hunter

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm  
Tel: 4927 6808\Fax 4927 6485  
hunter@acon.org.au  
129 Maitland Road, Islington, 2296

PO Box 220, Islington, 2296

## MacKillop Centre - Hunter

Training and development opportunities for PLWHA  
Tel: 4968 8788

## Illawarra

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm  
Tel: 4226 1163:Fax: 4226 9838  
illawarra@acon.org.au  
47 Kenny St, Wollongong, 2500  
POB 1073, Wollongong, 2500

## Mid North Coast

Outreach project: by appointment  
Tel: 6584.0943  
Fax: 6583.3810  
4 Hayward Street, Port Macquarie, 2444

POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

## FTMAustralia

Contact, support and information for all men (identified *female* at birth), their families, partners, and service providers. Contact FTMAustralia for more information:  
PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW, 2037.  
www.ftmaustralia.org  
mail@ftmaustralia.org

## GAY AND LESBIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE OF NSW (GLCS)

A volunteer-based community service providing anonymous and confidential telephone counselling, support, information and referral services for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT) and people in related communities.  
Counselling line open daily from 5.30pm-10.30pm daily (02) 8594 9596 (Sydney Metro Area - cost

of local call, higher for mobiles)  
1800 184 527 (free call for regional NSW callers only)  
Admin enquiries: (02) 8594 9500  
or admin@glsnsw.org.au  
website: www.glsnsw.org.au

## HARM MINIMISATION PROGRAM

Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users  
Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm Sat & Sun, 1 - 5 Deliveries Tue, Fri 6 - 9  
103/5 Redfern Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016  
(Redfern Community Health Centre, enter via Turner Street)  
Tel: (02) 9395 0400  
Fax: (02) 9393 0411

## HIV AWARENESS AND HIV AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

For HIV positive IDUs and their friends. Meets on Wednesdays. Contact Sandra or Tony at NUAA.  
Tel: (02) 9369.3455  
Toll Free: 1800.644.413

## HOLDEN STREET CLINIC

Sexual Health Clinic is staffed by doctors, sexual health nurses, a clinical psychologist and an administration officer.  
Mon, Tue, Wed. 9.00am-5.00pm (closed 12.15pm-1.00pm for lunch)  
Men's Clinic Thursday evenings 5.00pm-8.00pm  
Appointments preferred (02) 4320 2114  
Ground Floor 69 Holden St, Gosford 2250  
Tel:(02) 4320 2114  
Fax: (02)4320 2020

## INNERCITY LEGAL CENTRE

Available to discuss any legal matter that concerns you.  
Ph: (02) 9332 1966

## INTERSECTION

Coalition group of lesbian, gay, transgender and other sexual minority groups and individuals working for access and equity within local community services and their agencies.  
Christine Bird (02) 9525.3790  
PO Box 22, Kings Cross, NSW, 1340  
Tel: (02) 9360.2766  
Fax: (02) 9360.5154

## KIRKETON ROAD CENTRE

Needle exchange and other services  
Clinic Hours:  
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 10am - 6pm  
Wed 12 noon-6pm  
Weekends and public holidays, 10am - 1.45pm (NSP & methadone only)  
Outreach Bus - Every Night  
100 Darlinghurst Road  
(Entrance above the Kings Cross Fire Station Victoria Street

Clinic 180  
180 Victoria Street, Potts Point, 2011  
Tel: (02) 9357 1299  
Fax: (02) 9380 2382

Clinic 180 open

## Monday to Saturday

1.30pm-9.00pm  
Needle syringe program  
Condoms

## Monday to Friday

1.30pm-9.00pm  
Sexual health screening  
HIV screening  
Hepatitis C testing, hepatitis B testing and vaccination  
First aid and wound care  
Counselling and social welfare assistance  
Drug and alcohol assessment and referral

## LES GIRLS CROSS-DRESSERS GROUP

An independent peer support group for transgender people. Free tuition, job assistance, friendship and socials, general information. Bi-monthly meetings.  
Coordinator,  
PO Box 504 Burwood NSW 2134

## (MCC) METROPOLITAN

MCC Sydney is linked with MCC churches in Australia as part of an international fellowship of Christian churches with a social concern for any who feel excluded by established religious groups. MCC deplores all forms of discrimination and oppression and seeks to share God's unconditional love and acceptance of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, race or gender.  
96 Crystal St, Petersham, 2049  
Phone (02) 9569 5122  
Fax: (02) 9569 5144  
Worship times:  
10.00 am and 6.30 pm  
office@mccsydney.org  
http://www.mccsydney.org.au/

# Directory Assistance

Issue One Hundred and Three

## MOUNT DRUITT SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

Provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.

Tel: (02) 9881 1206  
Mon 9.00am-4.00pm  
Wed 9.00am-1.00pm  
Fri 9.00am-1.00pm

## NEWCASTLE SWOP

SWOP at Newcastle has a Mobile Sexual Health Team  
4927 6808

## NORTHAIDS

A community based organisation providing step down and respite care for PLWHA on the Northern Beaches.

Tel: (02) 9982 2310

## OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

The Open Door Community of Christ is a church for everyone! We meet every Sunday at 6.00pm. Based in Sydney's west, at Cranebrook, the Open Door has been serving the LGBTIQ community for the past fifteen years. The Western Sydney Transgendered Support Group and the Western Sydney Coming Out Group are sponsored by the Open Door. Bj's cafe is held on Wednesdays from 11.00am-1.00pm. The Youth Is Knocking youth group is held monthly with accredited facilitators.

Contact Pastor Sue Palmer  
0411330212 or  
[pastorsue@theopendoor.org.au](mailto:pastorsue@theopendoor.org.au)  
for further information, or check the web page

[www.theopendoor.org.au](http://www.theopendoor.org.au)

## PARRAMATTASEXUAL HEALTHCLINIC

provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.  
Level 1, 162 Marsden (cnr.eorge St) Parramatta, 2150  
Ph: (02) 9843 3124  
Mon, Wed, Fri, 9.00am-4.00pm  
Tue 9.00am-1.00pm  
Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

## PLWHA(PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS)

PO Box 831, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010  
Ph: (02) 9361 6011  
Fax: (02) 9360 3504  
[www.plwha.org.au](http://www.plwha.org.au)  
Katoomba  
PO Box 187,  
Katoomba, NSW, 2780  
Ph: (02) 4782 2119  
[www.hermes.net.au/plwha/](http://www.hermes.net.au/plwha/)  
[plwha@hermes.net.au](http://plwha@hermes.net.au)

## POSITIVE WOMEN

Can offer one-on-one support for HIV positive transgender women. Contact Women and AIDS Project Officer or Women's HIV Support officer at ACON.

Ph: (02) 9206 2000  
[www.acon.org.au/education/womens/campaigns.htm](http://www.acon.org.au/education/womens/campaigns.htm)

## RPA SEXUAL HEALTH

CLINIC provides a free and confidential range of health, counselling and support services. Ph: 9515 1200

## SAGE FOUNDATION

### (Sex and Gender Education Foundation)

A voluntary lobbying organisation made up of gender variant people to lobby the government to ensure equal treatment in all respects of life. SAGE is non-profit. All welcome.  
Ph: 0421 479 285

Email:  
[SAGE\\_Foundation@yahoo.com](mailto:SAGE_Foundation@yahoo.com)

## SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW

The Seahorse Society is a non-profit self-help group funded by members' contributions. Open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a newsletter.  
PO Box 2193 Boronia Park, NSW, 2111 or Ph: 0423 125

## (SWOP) SEX WORKERS OUTREACH TRANSGENDER SUPPORT PROJECT

Provides confidential services for people working in the NSW sex industry. Lvl 4, 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW, 2010

PO Box 1354  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012  
Tel: (02) 9206 2159  
Fax: (02) 9206 2133  
Toll free 1800 622 902  
[infoswop@acon.org.au](mailto:infoswop@acon.org.au)  
[www.swop.org.au](http://www.swop.org.au)

## SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

Provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly people to get together in comfortable, safe and friendly spaces.

Pub social in Newtown on 3rd Sunday of every month followed by a meal. All welcome.  
POB 281 Broadway NSW 2007  
Tel: (02) 9565 4281 (info line)  
[sbn-admin@yahoo.com](mailto:sbn-admin@yahoo.com)  
<http://sbn.bi.org>

## SYDNEY BISEXUAL

### PAGANS

Supporting, socialising and liberating bisexual pagans living in the Sydney region.

PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

## SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

Welcomes FTM men.

PO Box 2064, Boronia Park, 2111  
Tel: 9879.4979 (Paul Whyte)  
[paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au](mailto:paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au)

## SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

Provides free, confidential health services, including sexual function, counselling and testing and treatment of STDs, including HIV. Level 3, Nightingale Wing, Sydney Hospital, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000  
Ph: (02)9382 7440 or freecall from outside Sydney 1800 451 624.

(8.30am-5.00pm)

Fax: (02) 9832 7475

[sshc@saahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sshc@saahs.nsw.gov.au)

## SYDNEY WEST HIV/HEP C PREVENTION SERVICE

Needle and syringe program  
162 Marsden St, Parramatta, NSW 2150

Ph: (02) 9843 3229

Fax: (02) 9893 7103

## TOWN & COUNTRY CENTRE

Drop In Centre - Weekly Coffee Nights - 24 hour ph line - regular social activities - youth services - information, advice and referral - safer sex packs and more! - for bisexual, transgender folks and men who have sex with men  
80 Benerambah Street, Griffith  
PO Box 2485, Griffith, NSW 2680  
Tel: (02) 6964.5524  
Fax: (02) 6964.6052  
[glsg@stealth.com.au](mailto:glsg@stealth.com.au)

## WOMENS AND GIRLS

### DROP IN CENTRE

is a safe, friendly drop-in Centre in inner Sydney for women with or without children. Shower, relax, read the paper, get information, referral and advice.  
Monday to Friday - 9.30 - 4.30pm  
177 Albion Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010  
Tel: (02) 9360.5388

## WOMENS AND GIRLS EMERGENCY CENTRE

174 Redfern Street, Redfern  
Tel: (02) 9319 4088

## National

### (ABN) AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

National network of bisexual women and men, partners and bi- and bi-friendly groups. ABN produces a national magazine, houses a resource library and is a member of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).

PO Box 490, Lutwyche QLD 4030  
Tel: (07) 3857 2500

1800 653 223

[ausbinet@rainbow.net.au](mailto:ausbinet@rainbow.net.au)

[www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet](http://www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet)

### AISS SUPPORT GROUP (AUSTRALIA)

Support group for Intersex people and their families. We have representatives in all Australian States.

PO Box 1089

Altona Meadows, VIC, 3028

Tel: (03) 9315 8809

[aissg@iprimus.com.au](mailto:aissg@iprimus.com.au)

[www.vicnet.net.au/~aissg](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~aissg)

## AUSTRALIAN WOMAN NETWORK

Australian WOMAN Network is primarily a lobby and health support group for people who experience the condition of transsexualism, their families, friends and supporters. There are email discussion lists for members as well as a bulletin board for both public and member-only access.

[www.w-o-m-a-n.net](http://www.w-o-m-a-n.net)

### CHANGELING ASPECTS

Organisation for Transsexual people, their partners and families. For information, please write or call.

email: [knoble@iinet.net.au](mailto:knoble@iinet.net.au)

[www.changelingaspects.com](http://www.changelingaspects.com)

### FTMAustralia

Resources and health information for all men (identified *female* at birth), their partners, family and service providers. Contact FTM Australia for more information.  
PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW, 2037  
[www.ftmaustralia.org](http://www.ftmaustralia.org)  
[mail@ftmaustralia.org](mailto:mail@ftmaustralia.org)

## NATIONAL LGBTI HEALTH ALLIANCE

Office: (02) 8568 1110

Fax: (02) 8212 9013

PO Box 51, Newtown, NSW, 2042

[www.lgbtihealth.org.au](http://www.lgbtihealth.org.au)

## TRUE COLOURS DIVERSITY

True Colours represents young people who experience transsexualism and a network of their parents, families throughout Australia. Whether you are a parent, a family member, a carer, a friend or a young person experiencing the diversity in sexual formation called transsexualism, you have come to a friendly place. TRUE Colours offers mutual support and advocacy for young people with transsexualism and their families. We also offer a parents/caregivers email discussion group.

Web: [www.truecolours.org.au](http://www.truecolours.org.au)  
Email: [Mail@truecolours.org.au](mailto:Mail@truecolours.org.au)

## International

### AGENDERNEWZEALAND

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and families. For a detailed information pack, please contact:  
Email: [president@agender.org.nz](mailto:president@agender.org.nz)  
[www.agender.org.nz](http://www.agender.org.nz)

### BEAUMONT SOCIETY

Non-profit organisation for crossdressers throughout Great Britain. Social functions, counselling and a contact system for members. Provides a magazine - Beaumont magazine  
BM Box 3084 London WC1N 3XX England  
[www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/](http://www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/)

### BEAUMONT TRUST

The Trust is a registered charity, the aim of which is the support of transvestites, transsexuals, their friends and families. It fosters research into both psychological and social aspects of transvestism and transsexualism and can provide speakers to address other organisations. It produces literature and arranges workshops, develops befriending facilities and assists with conferences. The Beaumont Trust, BM Charity, London WC1N 3XX.  
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/gentrust/bt.htm>

### CROSS-TALK

The transgender community news & information monthly.  
PO Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365 U.S.A.

### FTM INTERNATIONAL

A group for female to male transgender people. Provides a quarterly newsletter - FTM. 160 14th St San Francisco, CA, 94103  
<http://www.ftmi.org/>  
[info@ftmi.org](mailto:info@ftmi.org)

### FTM NETWORK UK

A support group for female to male trans people. Provides a newsletter - *Boys' Own*  
FTM Network, BM Network, London, WC1N 3XX, England.  
[www.ftm.org.uk](http://www.ftm.org.uk)

### GENDERBRIDGE Inc.

Support and Social Society for people with gender identity issues, their families, partners and professionals involved in care, treatment and counselling.  
PO Box 68236, Newton, 1145, New Zealand  
Phone: (64) (09) 0800 TGHELP (0800.84.4357) (24 hrs)  
[www.genderbridge.org](http://www.genderbridge.org)  
[info@genderbridge.org](mailto:info@genderbridge.org)

### GENDER TRUST (THE)

A help group for those who consider themselves transsexual, gender dysphoric or transgendered. Provides trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists and there is a referral procedure to a choice of other therapists.  
The Gender Trust  
PO Box 3192, Brighton BN1 3WR, ENGLAND  
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/gentrust/home.htm>  
[gentrust@mistral.co.uk](mailto:gentrust@mistral.co.uk)

### INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

Support, information, advocacy and social events. An incorporated body established to advance the health, well-being, basic rights, social equality and self-determination of persons of any age or cultural background who are transgender, transsexual, transvestite or intersex, or who are otherwise physically or psychologically androgynous as well as gay, lesbian and bisexual people.  
PO Box 1066  
Nedlands, WA, 6909, Australia  
Mobile ph: 0427 853 083  
<http://www.ecel.uwa.edu.au/gse/staffweb/fhaynes>  
[IFAS\\_Homepage.html](http://www.IFAS.org.au)  
[www.IFAS.org.au](http://www.IFAS.org.au)

### IFGE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

Educational and service organisation designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by the Community. Publisher of materials relevant to the TV/TS theme. Produces TV/TS journal - *Tapestry*.  
PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254-0229 U.S.A.  
<http://www.ifge.org/>  
[info@ifge.org](mailto:info@ifge.org)

### IKHLAS

IKHLAS drop in centre is a community program by Pink Triangle Malaysia. Provides an outreach project, HIV/AIDS information, counselling, medication, workshop and skill building for transgender people in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.  
PO Box 11859, 50760 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia  
Tel: 6.03.2425.593  
Fax: 6.03.2425.59

### ITANZ INTERSEXTRUST AOTEAROA OF NEW ZEALAND

Registered non-profit charitable trust to provide a number of educational, advocacy and liaison services to intersexuals, their parents, caregivers, family, friends and partners within the Community and those affected by the Community.  
PO Box 9196, Marion Square Wellington, New Zealand  
Tel: (04) 4727 386 (machine only) Fax: (04) 4727 387

### PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF AUCKLAND-NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 68 509,  
Newton, Auckland,  
New Zealand

### PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF CHRISTCHURCH-NEW ZEALAND

Provides a confidential service for trannies working in the sex industry.  
PO Box 13 561  
Christchurch,  
New Zealand

### PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF WELLINGTON-NEW ZEALAND

Provides a confidential service for trannies working in the sex industry.  
PO Box 11/412, Manner St Wellington New Zealand  
Tel: (64) 4382-8791  
Fax: (64) 4801-5690

Every effort has been made to include accurate and up-to-date information in this directory. To amend your listing fax (02) 9569 1176 or email the Editor on [resources@gendercentre.org.au](mailto:resources@gendercentre.org.au)

*The Gender Centre has a number of special interest groups that meet, usually monthly, to further the interests of those concerned.*

If you are M2F; F2M; Over 55; Queer; Youth Group (aged between 14 and 19); Young females (under thirty-five); or parents of a transgender child, then there is a group tailored for you.

See p.10 for a calendar of meeting dates for 2015.

## NSW Seahorse Society



is a self help group based in Sydney open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, social outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a monthly newsletter.

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY  
OF NSW INC  
PO BOX 2193 BORONIA  
PARK, NSW 2111

**Call on 0423.125.860 and our website is:**

[www.seahorsesoc.org](http://www.seahorsesoc.org)

Email:

[crossdress@seahorsesoc.org](mailto:crossdress@seahorsesoc.org)

**“crossdress with dignity”**

# The Permanent Solution...

in Permanent Hair Removal

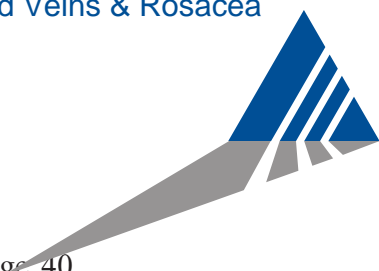
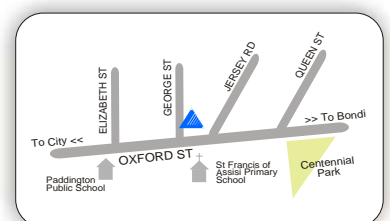
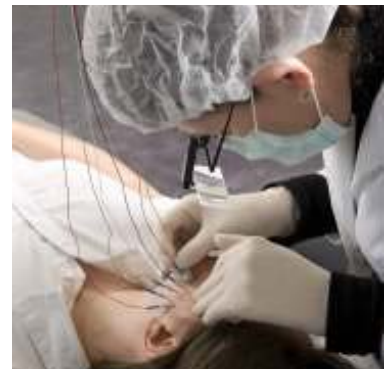
**F**or those who are embarking on the transition from male to female, the permanent removal of hair is vital. However, with so many clinics and procedures to choose from, it's crucial that your chosen solution is reliable, safe and permanent.

At Advanced Electrolysis Centre, we have been specialising in permanent hair removal since 1996, continually improving the methods and the technologies that deliver the best results. You'll be in the hands of our experienced and qualified specialists, where you'll receive the ultimate level of personal care and attention. We also offer on-site parking for our 3hr clients subject to availability.

Galvanic electrolysis is a scientifically proven technique that is effective no matter what type of hair you have, and no matter what colour skin. It works perfectly, even if you have blonde or grey hair. However if you have dark hair this can be treated by laser or IPL, or in many cases a combination to achieve a true permanent result.

So, whether you are in need of some general information, or you have already decided on a method that best suits your needs, come in for a chat and get expert advice on how to effectively be free of your unwanted hair FOREVER!

- Multi probe galvanic 16, 32 and 64 (Dual operator) follicle treatment
- Guaranteed Permanent Results
- Skin Rejuvenation
- Pigmentation Reduction
- Red Veins & Rosacea



**advanced**  
ELECTROLYSIS CENTRE

Phone: (02) 9362 1992  
9 George Street (just off Oxford St),  
Paddington  
[aecsdney.com.au](http://aecsdney.com.au)