

# *Polare*



Edition 65  
October-December 2005



# 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 human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

## the Gender Centre

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



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PO Box 266  
Petersham  
NSW 2049**

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**The Gender Centre is  
staffed 10am-5.30pm  
Monday to Friday**

***DROP-INS***

***Friday 11am - 1pm  
Wednesday 6pm - 8pm***

**All other times by appointment  
only**



### 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 image: The Queen of Hearts (Aztec version) demonstrating that with the right bypasses your heart can be as external as anything.

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**THE FINE PRINT**

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**Editor: Katherine Cummings**

**DEADLINE**

**for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is the  
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# Elizabeth's Report



**B**elow is my report from the Gender Centre Annual Report for the year 2004/2005. Before going to the report, some additional information.

## **New Staff.**

I would like to welcome two new staff members to the Gender Centre team. The first is Sean Taylor who was successful in securing the position of Community Support Worker, a restructured position incorporating what was formerly the Social and Support Worker. Many of you will remember Sean who has returned to the Centre after a five-year absence. Sean was the Social and Support Worker from 1996 to 2000 and we were very sorry to lose his valuable talents when he decided to leave. His transition back to the Gender Centre, thanks to his prior experience, has been wonderfully smooth and I am sure all clients will benefit from his skills, enthusiasm and commitment.

We have also, and again as part of our restructuring of positions, been able to secure the services of Daniel McKinley who will be working part-time in the shared role of HIV Outreach Worker. Daniel has a wealth of talent and I am sure his inclusion on the staff team will further enhance our capacity to provide quality services to the community.

Wannita Hutchison is also working with the centre in a voluntary capacity. She is working primarily in reception and general office duties. Volunteers at the centre have restricted roles which do not involve interaction with clients in any context other than the provision of basic information, (not advice), and in generally welcoming visitors to the centre. Wannita is likely to be at the centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only.

## **Professional Support**

Transgender people in professional walks of life often find themselves isolated from others in the community due to the nature of their work. The centre is seeking interest from people in these circumstances who feel they may benefit from establishing a support network.

Whether you are a teacher, a police officer, an engineer, a computer technician or working in any other profession where you feel you are the only transperson in the industry and you feel it may be of benefit to connect with others in a similar situation then we would like to hear from you. Call me at the centre to register your interest and if

numbers warrant we will assist in the development of a support network.

## **Annual Report**

### **Overview**

I take pleasure in providing the following report outlining the events of significance that have occurred over the last financial year and the endeavours and contributions of the centre and its staff to promoting the health, well-being and human rights of all members of our community.

I have frequently commented on the advances we have made in recent years in improving access and equity for transgender people within the wider community. Despite the clear gains made and the much wider community acceptance of gender diversity that is evident, however, there remain many challenges that we need to work together as a community to overcome. All progress is likely to be met with a level of resistance and this was certainly the case with the events surrounding Mission Australia and their application for an exemption under Section 26A of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act which was granted in July 2004. This is discussed further below.

It is extremely important, therefore, that we present a united front against any and all who seek to impose their will, beliefs and prejudice to the detriment of our community.

### **The Mission Australia Issue**

Having enjoyed a strong and co-operative relationship over many years with A Woman's Place and Lou's Place, two services run by Mission Australia, we were alarmed to discover that within the hierarchy of Mission Australia an application was lodged with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board (ADB) to exempt these services from providing service to pre-op transgender women. Both services had provided key and essential support to transgender women in crisis for many years. In the case of A Woman's Place, this support even pre-dated the Gender Centre which came into existence in 1983. Given this history, their application for an exemption came as a terrible blow to those vulnerable members of our community who had for so long relied on the care and respite these services offered. It also dealt a huge blow to the Gender Centre which had long relied on these services as safe referral options to clients in crisis, the kind of support that has otherwise been almost non-existent.

More alarming was the response from the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and the NSW Attorney General who saw fit to grant the exemption despite the fact that the

application from Mission Australia lacked substance, omitted any reference to the support these services had historically provided and failed to honour the consultative processes it promised. It was also of major concern that no mechanism was provided for agencies such as the Gender Centre or the lobby group SAGE to provide input into the decision-making process.

This resulted in the Gender Centre withdrawing in protest from the Sex and Gender Consultation conducted by the ADB. While these issues have been conciliated and we have now resumed our place on the Consultation the adverse affect on homeless transgender women continues and we are continuing to work on a process to ensure that these lost services are met by other means in the near future. We will continue to keep the community informed as these matters unfold.

Meanwhile I would very much like to acknowledge the support that the Gender Centre has received over this issue from the following peak bodies and agencies:

- HomelessnessNSW
- Australian Federation of Housing Organisation
- SAAP
- The NSW Ombudsman
- Inner City Legal Centre
- City Women's Hostel
- B. Miles Women's Housing
- Detour House
- Stepping Out
- Theba Young Women's Refuge
- Women and Girl's Emergency Centre
- The Salvation Army
- The Women's Housing Company
- YWCA
- Marion Centre
- SAAP Inner West Interagency members
- SAGE
- TGV

and also

- The staff members within the affected Mission Australia agencies who have relayed their concerns.

- All the decent and fair minded members within our own community who have expressed their outrage and sorrow at this turn of events.

## **Partnerships**

The Gender Centre maintains and fosters partnerships with a wide range of external organisations to further promote the rights of the transgender community. While these are many and varied, the ones listed below are those with whom significant partnerships have been established.

### **SAAP Inner West Interagency**

#### **Working Beyond the Frontiers Project**

This is an exciting and innovative project designed to bring together the wide range of skills and talents of a collection of homelessness agencies, their managers and staff, for the purpose of pooling and sharing expertise and support. The project has been established with non-recurrent funds provided by SAAP to the Inner West services and some of these funds have now been allocated for the engagement of an expert facilitator to co-ordinate the program.

It is anticipated that the project will develop over its initial twelve month time frame into an ongoing system of support, sharing of resources, and organisational expertise that will be of benefit to staff and clients across SAAP services in the inner west. At the time of writing this report the project is in its infancy but it already boasts several key meetings and focus groups, a website, a newsletter and access to a broad based referral network. I look forward to the long term benefits of the WBTF initiative.

### **Homelessness NSW**

The Gender Centre has developed close ties with Homelessness NSW over the last year. This partly occurred in response to the problems arising with Mission Australia's exemption but has extended to our involvement in other projects which have included the development of a risk assessment system, which we are currently trialling and which is intended for use across the SAAP sector; as well as significant contributions to the Homelessness NSW newsletter. We have received strong and committed support from this peak body and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship.

### **The Women's Housing Company**

As stated in previous Annual Reports, in the latter part of 2001 we entered into an invaluable partnership with the Women's Housing Company which provided the centre with additional exit housing for our residential clients. In the partnership we have gained four additional units. The

## Issue Sixty-Six

units and tenancies of these properties are managed by the Women's Housing Company with support to residents being provided by the Gender Centre. This arrangement means that eligible residents in our refuge program will be able to enter the units for a period of twelve months after they have completed their stay at the Centre.

The Women's Housing Company are very supportive and a delight to work alongside. We have also developed a positive working relationship with B. Miles, a women's housing organisation who have a similar partnership with the Women's Housing Company, and who hold two flats in one of the same complexes as the Gender Centre.

### NSW Attorney General's Crime Prevention Division

The Gender Centre meets regularly with the representatives from the Attorney General and other community stakeholders on the GLBT Community Advisory Committee. The primary aim of the committee is to address the issue of crime, particularly crimes of violence, to which GLBT communities are subjected.

The CAC committee also holds joint meetings with NOGA, (Network of Government Agencies), which also addresses GLBT issues within the NSW government sector. These joint meetings help to improve NOGA's understanding of the issues from a community perspective.

### Other Significant Partnerships

We have continued our ongoing representation on our local Council. The Gay and Lesbian Liaison at Marrickville, (GLLAM), meets bi-monthly to respond to community needs, plan events and provide advice on a range of Council programs. Marrickville Council have shown a commitment to providing an appropriate range of services to our community and we are pleased to continue our involvement with them. The Council elections held in March 2004 have resulted in a number of changes on the committee but the grass roots approach in responding to the GLBT communities continues and Council are keen to promote diversity within their boundaries and to conduct a range of community events specifically targeting our communities.

### Employment Equity Specialists Association (EESA)

The Gender Centre is maintaining an active involvement with EESA to keep transgender employment on the agenda for EEO practitioners. We continue our membership with EESA and will continue to attend meetings where issues being addressed are of relevance to us or where there are issues that we may wish to draw to their attention.

Through our work with EESA, and also with OEED (Office of Employment Equity and Diversity), we seek to achieve strong support from the EEO practitioners in the public sector in advancing work opportunities for transgender people.

### NSW Anti-Discrimination Board

Despite the conflict which arose over the granting of an exemption to Mission Australia the Gender Centre remains committed to working with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board which continues to facilitate its Sex and Gender Diversity consultation. This provides an important forum for airing issues of concern to the transgender community.

We will continue to use this forum in our efforts to minimise discrimination and to encourage pro-active approaches to removing the barriers to access and equity wherever they remain.

### Quality Management Services (QMS)

Last, but not least, the Gender Centre has begun an accreditation process through QMS. This process looks at a wide range of aspects of our service delivery and measures them against a set of core and elective standards. The process will take approximately twelve months and is due to conclude in May 2006. Accreditation is an excellent opportunity for our service to examine those aspects of our work that we are doing well and also identify any areas where we might improve. This process contributes to engaging in the practice of ongoing quality improvement and assists us in ensuring that service provision is relevant, effective and of high quality.

The Gender Centre last completed an accreditation process in 1998 and we look forward now to building on what was achieved then.

*Elizabeth*

## Don't Forget The Xmas

## Barbecue!!



**SUNDAY 8  
DECEMBER**

**11am**

**to**

**4.30pm**

## Editorial - Katherine Cummings



Here we are again, with a feeling that there has been a long layoff, a feeling brought on partly by the three month gap between the previous issue and this one and partly because in the interim I have been to hospital, cruised the Valley of Death (I'm still the meanest bitch in the valley), had my beating heart extracted from my

chest cavity by "whiz" surgeon John Le Gay Brereton (Richard Carleton's words from his "60 Minutes" report on his own wander through the Valley a year or so ago) and spent a strange day and a half hallucinating in Intensive Care while the morphine wore off.

I thought I had made a deal with the anaesthetist to wake me as my beating heart was held aloft in triumph, so that I could appreciate the cheers from the Aztecs in the grandstand, but he either forgot or was overruled. I am assured by my surgeon, however, that my heart is not as black as most people seem to think. Of course I have always been known for being open-hearted. The surgeon merely made it official.

You will be glad (or you may be terribly disappointed) to know that I am back to normal (?) after my triple bypass and returned to work today (19 September) with only a few Cardiac Health Police getting in the way of my moving filing cabinets around and forbidding me from going sailing. Sob!

This abbreviated account of Katherine's Fine Adventure would not be complete without a tribute to the nursing staff who were expert, efficient, kind, compassionate, co-operative and interested to know that they had a transgendered person in their care. Not vulgar, silly interest, mind you, but intelligent, caring, fact-finding interest. I left the nursing staff a copy of my book and Julia Doulman's film ("Becoming Julia") and when I called in last Friday I was told both film and book were much appreciated and doing the rounds. I would also like to thank Julia who visited me often, brought me home when I was fit enough to travel, and stayed with me, fetching, carrying, cooking and driving for the critical week and a half after my return home.

Enough about me.

The Gender Recognition Panel set up in Britain to decide whether to issue Gender Recognition Certificates to transgenders who meet certain criteria, and thus enable those transgenders to receive amended birth certificates has run into an obstacle which appears to relate to interpretation of the regulations rather than a substantive objection to any individual claim. The information on which the GRP bases its decision on whether to grant a GRP certificate or not requires a statement by a registered professional, attesting to the existence or otherwise of gender reassignment (or affirmation) processes having been carried out. This is now being interpreted as meaning an individual registered in Britain, which greatly inconveniences transgenders who have moved away from Britain since they underwent GRS or who moved before GRS and have had their surgery in countries whose medical professionals are unlikely to be registered in Great Britain.

The consequence is that instead of the simple procedure of going to the surgeon who carried out the reassignment



and obtaining a statement describing the procedures carried out, it will be necessary for transgenders with British birth certificates to seek out a local medical practitioner who happens to be registered in Britain, and prove to him or her that the procedures have in fact taken place. Unnecessary complication and possible expense.

Surely national medical associations have some some sort of inter-national accreditation and recognition procedure which would circumvent this clerical pettifoggery?

If you wish to help in this area and know of medical professionals in this country who are registered, for whatever reason, in Great Britain, please let us have their names and contact details. We will then find out if they are willing to have transgenders referred to them for Gender Recognition accreditation, and whether they are, in fact, qualified to make such a statement (an acquaintance with gender reassignment procedures is implicit in the Gender Recognition Panel requirements).

I will place an advertisement elsewhere in this issue, reminding our readers of our wish to compile a list of British-registered practitioners practising in Australia. Please help.



*Katherine*



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support ?**

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*Call the Gender Centre,  
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and see what we  
can put in the post to you.*

---

## **Gender Affirmation and Liberation (GAAL)**

**GAAL** is committed to providing a service to:

People with the condition of Gender Dysphoria (Transsexualism)

People that are in the process of affirming gender identity by hormonal and/or surgical means or have already affirmed gender identity.

**We also...**

Actively interact with other organisations that may be of assistance to our members and their families.

**These include:**

- Other organisations for Women and Men of Transsexual background.
- Friendly health professionals.
- The Monash Gender Clinic
- Department of Human Services.
- Housing services.
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Numerous other organisations.

**GAAL** is a community support and social group which aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for people in the process of gender affirmation or who have affirmed their true gender to share experiences.

**GAAL** is not aimed at people who are just exploring their gender identity although we offer referral to suitable services and support groups that deal with this issue.

**Social Activities.** We also have social occasions, that are outside of the regular support group meetings, where we actively encourage the participation of friends, family, partners and other support groups.

We hold regular meetings on the third Monday of each month at a venue in South Yarra.

GAAL: PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Or call our message bank:

**(03) 9517 1237** and one of our committee members will contact you as soon as possible or you can write to us by letter or by email.

Or if you need to contact us urgently:

**Ph: 0425 785 666**

Researchers in Goteburg University and the Karolinska Institute in Gotesburg and Stockholm are researching ossible causes for transgender behaviour, basing their research on genes known to affect the sexual development of the brain.

The research results are described in the August 2005 issue of *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

The findings suggest that transgender behaviour may depend on specific segments of DNA where the code "stutters", repeating a few letters of the code many times. These variants are "all much more common than the frequency of transgender" but the researchers say the stuttering genes may facilitate or prevent transgender.

One variant seemed to be significantly associated with transgender. This gene produces a molecule called ER-Beta which acts a gateway controlling the flow of estrogen through the brain during fetal development.

Estrogen is thought to be responsible for "wiring" the brain for masculinity in males before birth, although it is more generally known as a female and feminising hormone. After birth it influences the development of feminine characteristics.

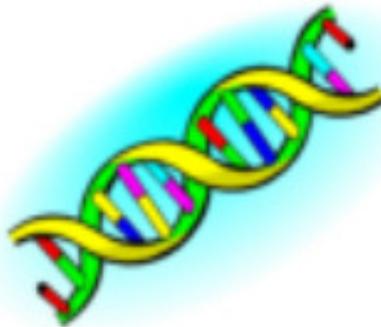
The gene producing the ER-Beta receptor contains a "stutter", properly called a "CA repeat sequence" which contains the C and A letters of the genetic code repeated many times sequentially.

The researchers found that this repeat sequence was associated with a much higher likelihood of transgender in the study, which included 29 MtT transgenders and 229 non-transgender men.

It is not understood how this receptor contributes to transgender but it is possible that it changes the molecular gateway and allows easier or more

difficult transmission of estrogen. The researchers admit that there is no certainty what effect the receptor has and this may not be determined until further research with greater numbers of subjects has been carried out.

The researchers also believe two other genes may influence the risk of becoming transgender but neither of



these was decisive on its own. Rather, specific combinations of the three substances seemed to occur among trans-gender subjects.

The other genes were those which encoded the production of aromatase and androgen receptor. These genes are believed to determine how "male" the brain will become. They affect the relative size of some of the structures of the brain, structures which typically are larger or smaller in male and female brains, and may determine the innate gender of the subject.

The frontal cortex and the limbic cortex are bigger in women (reasoning functions and emotions) than they are in men when compared to other parts of the brain. Parts of the parietal cortex and the amygdala (spatial perception and emotion) are bigger in men. Part of the hypothalamus is also thought to be bigger in men. Studies have also shown differences between heterosexual and homosexual males in another part of the hypothalamus but research has never shown that homosexuality and transgender have

anything in common biologically other than that they can now be shown to have possible genetic bases.

The idea that genes underlie transgender, at least in the case of MtF transgenders, is gaining support following reports on twin and non-twin siblings with the same genetic stutter, and from families where there are more than one member with the genetic condition.

Gender identity is usually established by the time a child is eighteen months to two years old, according to the Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, 17th edition.

This supports the anecdotal evidence provided by the vast majority of transgenders, and refutes the theory that transgenders transitioning in middle age or later and claiming to have been transgendered since infancy are lying in order to justify the need to transition at a mature age.

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## What does being exposed to HIV mean?

Being exposed to HIV may result from any action that lets infected body fluids (like blood or semen) enter your bloodstream. It is not the same as being infected with HIV (being HIV positive), but it can lead to this.

## How does exposure happen?

You can be exposed to HIV if you:

- ✓ have vaginal or anal sex with a person who has, or might have, HIV
- ✓ share needles or syringes with a person who has, or might have, HIV
- ✓ get HIV positive blood in your eyes or in an open sore.

If you don't use a condom there is a high risk of exposure. Even if you use a condom there will be a risk if the condom is not used all the time during penetration, or if the condom breaks. Either person having sex can be exposed.

Oral sex is not considered a high risk, but it may be a risk if you have a mouth ulcer or other broken skin and the person you are with ejaculates in your mouth.

*He was very persuasive and said he'd pull out before he came. So I said "fine". And he did pull out but he got excited and left it a bit late and we weren't sure whether he'd done it in time... Jeremy*

*I was on the receiving end, and when he pulled out we saw the condom had busted ... Adam*

*I thought he was negative. We shared a fit, and then he told me he was positive... Kelley*

## So what is this new treatment?

The new treatment is called PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis). IT IS A FOUR-WEEK COURSE OF DRUGS THAT YOU CAN TAKE IF YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HIV. The PEP drugs, which must be prescribed by a doctor, are actually the same drugs that are used for people who are already HIV positive.

## When should I take the drugs?

PEP may be able to stop exposure leading to infection, but you must act fast. TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE IT SHOULD BE STARTED WITHIN A FEW HOURS OF EXPOSURE. If you go to a doctor more than seventy-two hours after exposure they may advise you that it is not likely to be of use.

## How does PEP work?

HIV, like any virus, works by infecting some cells then replicating itself and spreading to other cells. There is evidence that it may take a few days from the time of exposure for HIV to establish itself in the body. The aim of PEP is to prevent HIV replicating itself in those first cells. The cells then die naturally within a short time, without having produced more copies of HIV.

## Does PEP mean I can now forget safe sex and safe injecting?

No! PEP is not a vaccine, nor is it a cure for HIV/AIDS. It does not always work, and therefore is a 'last resort' treatment. Safe sex and safe drug injecting practices are the most effective ways to avoid HIV infection.

*I've been in a relationship for about four years and never had a condom break. I don't know what happened this time. I pulled out and there it was ... both of us were worried because my partner is HIV positive. I went to his doctor, who suggested I go on PEP ... Tom*

*We were blsting coke a;; night. Our fits might have got mixed up. One of the guys was positive. He said I should find out about PEP ... Carol*

## Will PEP work for me?

PEP may prevent HIV infection, particularly if started very soon after exposure and continued for the full course of four weeks. But it is not yet proven.

Most of the information about PEP comes from studies on health care workers who were given PEP after needle-stick injuries. A study in the US found that health care workers who took PEP after an exposure to HIV were up to 80 per cent less likely to become infected than those who did not.

Other research supporting the use of PEP comes from studies where the children of HIV-positive women were treated with anti-HIV drugs soon after birth. There is also support for the use of PEP from studies using animals. At this stage, the long-term safety of anti-HIV drugs used in this way is unknown.

## Is the course of drugs easy to follow?

If you and the doctor feel that you might benefit from PEP, then you will be started on a four-week course of drugs. For the best result you will need to take these drugsexactly as prescribed, with a strict dosing schedule and perhaps a special diet.

If you know that the person you had sex with or shared needles with is HIV positive, it is important to tell the doctor. Other information that may be important is what treatment they are taking (if any) and their viral load (the amount of HIV present in their bloodstream).

The drugs used in PEP are highly potent and often cause side effects such as nausea, headaches and fatigue. You will be closely monitored by your doctor to manage these side effects.

*It's better than worrying about it and thinking there's nothing you can do, even though it was hard taking all the pills at the right time and so on ...*  
Chris

*The treatments made me feel pretty lousy. I had terrible diarrhoea, but it got better after the first week. I wouldn't want to take them again but I'm pleased they were available ...* David

*I hope I never become positive because there's no way I want to take these drugs for the rest of my life ...* Kym

### Where do I get PEP?

You can get PEP from sexual health clinics and from GPs who specialise in HIV/AIDS. It is also available 24 hours a day from all hospital accident and emergency departments in NSW.

Information on where you can get PEP is available in NSW by calling 1800 PEP NOW (1800 737 669).

PEP is also available in some other parts of Australia and overseas. If you are outside NSW you can find out where to get PEP from the AIDS Council in that State. AIDS organisations in other countries will also be able to give you information about how to access PEP if it is available.

### How much does PEP cost?

For four weeks' supply of one drug you will be charged \$15.00 (or \$3.30) for people with a Health Care Card). But the doctor may recommend you take two or three different drugs as part of the PEP treatment, so it may cost more.

### Should I still have an HIV test?

Yes. PEP may not prevent infection, so you can't be sure. In a few rare cases it has just delayed infection by up to six months. Therefore you should be tested for HIV before you begin PEP and then one, three and six months afterwards.

### What about sex while I'm on PEP?

Don't risk further exposure to yourself or others by having unsafe sex (or sharing needles) while on PEP. There is no evidence that PEP will protect against another exposure to HIV while you are taking the treatment.

### What about other drugs while I'm on PEP?

PEP drugs can affect the way in which other drugs (prescription or non-prescription) work in the body. They can affect the way in which the liver processes other drugs. This can lead to an increase in blood levels of some drugs to a point that is dangerous or even lethal. The protease inhibitor class of drugs, particularly ritonavir (Norvir), can greatly increase blood levels of ecstasy (MDMA), amphetamines, methadone, Vallium, Rohypnol, anabolic steroids, ketamine (Special K) and Viagra. It is important to discuss with your doctor any other drugs that you are taking or intend to take.

*I had unsafe sex at a party. I panicked and then headed straight for the hospital. I was still out of it and didn't know what PEP was called. I had to tell the nurse what I had done and that I'd heard about this treatment. It was bloody embarrassing but she didn't seem phased ...* Don

*Taking PEP was a bit of a wake-up call. I think I'd become a bit slack. But after thinking about the possibility of becoming positive, I'm sure I won't take a chance like that again ...* Peter

### THE FACTS ABOUT PEP

- ◆ PEP is a four-week course of anti-HIV drugs that may prevent you becoming HIV positive after an exposure to the virus.
- ◆ It is an important option to consider if you think you may have been exposed to HIV.
- ◆ You don't have long to act! If you think you've been exposed to HIV, you should see a doctor urgently, and definitely within twenty-two hours.
- ◆ PEP can have some unpleasant side effects, and may well react with other drugs you are taking.
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# Would You Like Your *Polare* To Arrive With You The Day It Goes To The Printer? In Colour? Even If You Change Your Postal Address And Forget To Tell Us?

As foreshadowed in issue 64 we would like to experiment with an emailed version of *Polare* in pdf format. You would receive it the same day it goes to the printer, no matter where you live in the world, and all illustrations received in colour would be available in colour, for you to admire onscreen or, if you have a colour printer, print out.

To enable us to do this we will need your email addresses. We guarantee their security. They will not be passed on under any circumstances and will not appear on other people's mailings ... they will be "blind" and only your own email address will appear on your copy of the emailed *Polare*.

The advantages to us will be twofold ... if enough people take part in this system we will save a lot on postage and something on printing costs. We would like to bring *Polare* out every two months but if the emailed edition does not prove popular we will need to remain quarterly. There will still be printed copies for those who do not have access to the Internet or who prefer to pick up the magazine anonymously at one of our Sydney City drop-off points. But every saving from the *Polare* budget will take us closer to returning to bi-monthly editions.

Please think about this carefully and email me on:

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if you would like *Polare* emailed to you rather than having it posted to you. Thanks for your co-operation,

Katherine Cummings, Editor, *Polare*



**Which would you rather have? You can have living colour if you receive *Polare* by email. And you'll receive it faster. ... wherever you are.**



Dear Katherine,

I read the article in *Polare* 64 about April Ashley, Coccinelle and Bambi. Coccinelle and Bambi were two famous blonde female impersonators from the Carrousel in Paris and in the very early 1960s I was appearing two Kings Cross strip clubs called The Pink Pussy Cat and Livios, run by Sir Wayne, Last Card Louie, Livio and the late Johnny Cha-cha. About 1.00am one morning a Chevron Hilton Hotel waiter brought Coccinelle and Bambi up to our strip clubs. They were both beautiful ladies although their English was not too good. Coccinelle and Bambi were appearing in William Street near Forbes Street, in a downstairs club, now long-since demolished for a major development. The two French ladies were brought to Sydney by the late Lee Gordon, if my memory serves. Gordon opened the first drag show in King's Cross, called The Jewel Box, a show I also appeared in with many famous drag queens - Carlotta, Lombard, Sue Lagay, Karen Chan, Ayesha, Shara, Simone, Jakie. Elektra, Kandy and many, many more. Coccinelle also appeared in a ghastly-looking building called The Diamond Horseshoe in Oxford Street, Woollahra and also had a little trouble with the law following one of her sexy acts. It was a different era then, with heavy police interference. Coccinelle and Bambi were absolutely stunning blondes and some drag clubs liked the odd drag queen in their shows. But you had to look glamorous and blend in and at the end of the show the customers had to guess which was the drag queen. It made for a fun night with all the straight, heterosexual glamour strippers. They didn't mind. They appreciated the fun.

If I remember correctly Coccinelle appeared in William Street, King's Cross in The Boulevard of Broken Dreams in the Sound Lounge nightclub next to Whisky a Go-Go. Many famous overseas stars appeared there. Coccinelle was so striking. I also met April Ashley in the 1980s and have her book and I say special prayers for the oldest and late Sista Gal ... special prayers for the late Ms Christine Jorgensen.

This is your roving Surry Hills reporter signing off.

Love,

Carmen

**Please Note**  
**If you email the editor**  
*resources@gendercentre.org.au*  
**please include the word *Polare* in**  
**the subject line**

*Gender and  
Omac*

## Social and Support Group

Transsexed and Intersexed  
*Members/Partners/Friends*

**Meetings held at**  
**Uniting Church Hall**  
**Cnr 48 Regent Street**  
**and Portland Place**  
**New Lambton**  
**Times: 6.30pm to**  
**9.30pm**  
**Wednesday Evenings**  
**9th November 2005**  
**14th December 2005**

Contacts:

President: Tanya Jane Appleby (02) 4948 1012

Assistant: Glennise Richardson (02) 4578 2782

Assustant (FTM) Josh Millowick (02) 4937 2184

## Agender NSW

Agender NSW, located in Newcastle, is a social and support group for Transsexed, Transgender and Intersexed, as well as cross-dressers, families and partners.

We have an (FTMA) support person attached to the group as well as (MTF) support personnel.

Our aim is to assist everyone to achieve acceptance, self-confidence on their journey, as well as letting them know that they are not alone and that we offer them friendship as well as support.

We can assist with basic help and try to steer you in the right direction although we are not counsellors.

We are interested in working with all groups, not taking anything away from any individual nor destroying any group's identity, but rather striving to bring all groups closer together.



We hold our meetings on the second Wednesday evening of each month at the Uniting Church Hall at 48 Regent Street, New Lambton, at 6.30pm.

We provide a newsletter and other information each month. All members, new and old, are welcome to join us and the evening will give you the opportunity to make new friends in the same situation as yourself. Contact details:

Agender NSW, PO Box 11, Windale, NSW, 2306

or phone Tanya (02) 4948 1012

or email [agendernsw@hotmail.com](mailto:agendernsw@hotmail.com)

or [apples6@bigpond.net](mailto:apples6@bigpond.net)

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RSVP Social and Support by  
emailing

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or by phoning

9569 2366

## Social and Support Report

Hello to everyone! I'm back after five years as the Community Support Worker and Case Manager. I have taken over from Rick who used to be in my old position as Social and Support Worker and from David who used to be the Case Manager. I have been extremely busy and excited organising the up and coming social events. I would like to thank Erina and Lily for cooking two traditional cultural dishes, a Maori dish called Boil Up and a Koori dish called Bullung Soup. I invite any other culture to come and cook for the Wednesday night drop-in. The FTM Barbecue and the Spring Barbecue were very successful, with over forty people turning up at the Gender Centre.

Tickets for the Tranny Pride Ball are now on sale at the Gender Centre, SWOP and ACON (ask for Cooncha at ACON).

The Minto Bush Camp Weekend is booking out quickly so be quick to get in for a wonderful relaxed weekend away.

I'm looking for volunteers to start up a steering committee to organise a float for Mardi Gras 2006.

I welcome any ideas from the transgender community on what you would like me to offer you for 2006. I enjoy organising and facilitating workshops, support groups, social activities and social events. I can be contacted on 9569 2366 or by email [socialsupport@bigpond.com](mailto:socialsupport@bigpond.com) Monday to Friday from 10am to 5.30pm.

Cheers,

Sean Taylor

## Op-Shop Extravaganza!

*The Gender Centre is interested in getting a small number of people out and about for some opportunity shopping.*

*The group will visit a number of second-hand shops in the area whilst also*

*providing moral support and (of course) positive fashion advice.*



*All clients are encouraged and indeed most welcome to sign up and participate in these events.*

*Put on your comfortable shoes and bring along some money for the purchases you will make on the day.*

*To RSVP contact Sean on 9569-2366 or email [socialsupport@bigpond.com](mailto:socialsupport@bigpond.com)*

# Margaret Stumpp: A Profile Interview

Issue Sixty-Six

by Susan Jordan

*Margaret S. Stumpp, PhD. is Chief Investment Officer for Quantitative Investment Management Associates (QMA) - an investment management subsidiary of Prudential Financial. In that capacity, she oversees the investment of approximately \$50 billion across a myriad of asset categories. She will be keynote speaker at the Gay Alliance's Equality Leadership conference on Oct. 21.*

Margaret, better known as Maggie, manages, or oversees management of, large asset pools for institutions around the world, including corporations, endowments, public entities and mutual funds. She also directs research on investment strategy and portfolio management and has published numerous articles in publications including *The Financial Analyst's Journal*, *The Journal of Portfolio Management*, *Journal of Investment Management*, and *Award Papers in Public Utility Economics*. Margaret has appeared on CNBC and her research and opinions have been covered in print media around the globe including such publications such as the *NY Times*, *The LA Times* and *Forbes* magazine.

In January 2002, Maggie formally changed genders from male to female. Her workplace transition was the subject of an award-winning article by Adam Geller of the Associated Press, entitled "Call Me Maggie." She speaks regularly on issues affecting transgendered people in the workplace. Maggie Stumpp earned a BA with distinction in Economics from Boston University and holds MA and PhD degrees in Economics from Brown University. She is an avid windsurfer and has appeared on the pages of *Windsurfing Magazine* and *American Windsurfer*. She is also a member of AIMR, NY Society of Security Analysts and several portfolio advisory boards, and is a student mentor with the Financial Women's Association of NY (FWA). She says that she enjoys gardening, travel and, occasionally, plumbing, and that she has not (yet) been indicted by Eliot Spitzer.

**Empty Closet:** At what point in your life did you realize that you are transgender, and how long did it take you to come to terms with that knowledge and decide to transition?

**Maggie Stumpp:** Like many transgendered people, this is something I've coped with as long as I could remember.

I remember going to bed every night hoping that I'd wake up the next morning as a girl. Curiously, this realization occurred at a very young age - well before I had even heard the word sex, or knew what it meant. In that sense, it took over forty years to transition. This is something that most transgendered people fight all of their lives and for some, like me, the emotional burden becomes too much to bear and we simply must change genders. Until the advent of the internet, there was very little information concerning transsexuality and most therapists - certainly the ones I consulted with - were utterly unaware of the subject and equated it with being gay and in denial. People are more aware now and transition younger.

**EC:** What was most helpful to you during this process? And what were the greatest obstacles?

**MS:** Probably the internet. The ability to discover and communicate with others like myself and to find serious research and specialists in the field was invaluable. The greatest obstacles had to do with my own insecurities regarding the

consequences of my decision. I needed to be established enough in my career and needed to be able to convince myself and those close to me that this was not an irrational decision, but rather something that had been thought through and carefully considered.

**EC:** Do you think sexual orientation is relevant to gender expression? If so, do you regard yourself as lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual?

**MS:** Despite what some individuals would like to believe, there is no evidence that being transsexual has any relationship to sexual orientation. It's been said that being lesbian, or gay, is about who you love, while being transsexual is about who you are.

The sad truth, however, is that transgendered people, especially transsexuals, often live very lonely lives. Neither men nor women find us attractive and there are very, very few people who are willing to have us as partners. Under those circumstances, sexual orientation takes a back seat to the need for love and companionship.

**EC:** Was coming out to management and co-workers a lengthy process requiring much education from you on trans issues, or were management and co-workers knowledgeable and accepting from the start?



Margaret Stumpp Ph.D

**MS:** Everyone was clueless. No one had even considered the possibility that someone would transition at the firm. While I was having surgery, one executive who co-managed our organization called every employee I worked with individually to explain the circumstances and to give them an opportunity to ask questions. That individual approach helped a lot. People eventually informed themselves and all I needed to do was to provide a few literature references and not do anything completely stupid. I've discovered that in many transitions, associates can be tremendously understanding and supportive.

**EC:** What would you suggest to people who are considering transition? Where can they find reliable sources of information?

**MS:** My strongest recommendation is to only transition if you absolutely have to. The financial and emotional toll associated with taking this path can be incalculable. If you must transition, be very secure in your job and be fully aware of your employer's diversity policies. I've seen far too many people lose jobs and entire careers because they left an employer to transition off-the-job, only to discover that very few firms are willing to hire a transsexual. I've seen others lose jobs because they transitioned too early and were utterly unprepared. Although this is a sad commentary on society, people who appear "different" have great difficulty getting and keeping employment. Transgendered people should be fairly far along in the process before publicly announcing their intentions to transition. Curiously, this does not involve reassignment surgery, as we don't publicly display genitalia. Rather, it involves superficial things like hormone treatment, electrolysis, hair, voice lessons and cosmetic surgery. Most of these can be fully addressed while one is still in the old gender.

**EC:** Are there any books or websites that you especially like?

**MS:** While there are a number of excellent biographies (Donna Rose's book, "Wrapped in Blue," is among them and is generally available), HRC's workplace has an excellent resource for individuals and firms involved in workplace transitions: [www.hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=Work\\_Life](http://www.hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=Work_Life)). Also, Lynn Conway has a gallery of successful trans people at <http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/conway.html> and I've found her gallery to be a very useful tool with employers who have only seen trans people on exploitive TV shows like Jerry Springer and think we're all drag queens, or clowns in dresses.

**EC:** Since transitioning, have your thoughts on women's rights changed (i.e. in relation to pay inequities, the glass ceiling, etc.)? Do you feel you have lost power in some sense through foregoing a male identity?

**MS:** To a degree. Some business people who don't know me have treated me like a bimbo - an eye opening experience. However, there are other important and more subtle issues. For example, women work together differently from men. That is a social skill that must be learned and there can be a problem with behaving too "male-like" under the wrong circumstances.

**EC:** Would you agree that transgendered people have always been part of the LGB community, albeit invisible/unacknowledged? Would you identify as "queer"?

**MS:** The term "transgendered" encompasses an incredibly diverse group of people - some of whom wouldn't even self-identify as transgendered. It includes effeminate men and assertive women, drag queens, cross dressers, transsexuals and many others. Issues vary widely across the transgendered spectrum. Regardless of sexual orientation, or even gender affiliation, however, the transgendered have one thing in common: those who hate, hate all of us equally. People often forget that the general public perceives the entire transgendered population as "gay." Regardless of sexual orientation, it is often the effeminate male or the assertive woman who is the target of violence and discrimination. Everyone should realize that the violence that is directed at transgendered people would be directed at anyone in the broader GBL community if they were as easily identified. Transsexuals, for example, were among Hitler's first victims. I don't identify as "gender queer," I simply identify as Maggie.

---

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*This paper was presented at "Work, Love and Play: Core Issues in Practice", Third National Psychotherapy in Australia Conference, Melbourne 5-7 July 2002 and was first published in May 2005.*

## Abstract

This pilot study interviewed six couples, each of whom have at least one partner who is sex and gender diverse. I asked interviewees questions about the coping and managing strategies that help them have relationships. The analysis of conversational interviews reveals areas in which psychotherapists and relationship counsellors can help those individuals and couples sustain loving relationships.

All the sex and gender diverse people interviewed had at some time been brought up in one sex and gender and then transitioned to another sex and gender in teenage or later years.

## Introduction

This is a pilot study qualitatively looking at relationships of people who are sex and/or gender diverse (SGD) and their partners. The description SGD includes people who have certain physical characteristics that medically identify them as intersex, including Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, Micropenis Syndrome, Klinefelter's Syndrome, Mayer Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser Syndrome, Turner's Syndrome, 46X females, Progestin Induced Virilisation, Adrenal Hiperplasia, Male Double XX Syndrome, XYY Syndrome, 5-Alpha Reductase (5 AR) Deficiency, Acromegaly, Bifid Scrotum, Hypospadiac Male, Ideopathic Adolescent Gynaecomastia, Congenital Virilising Adrenocorticism, Cloacal Extrophy, Denys-Drash Syndrome (also known as Wilm's Tumour)<sup>1</sup> and many others.

The study includes people who self-identify as intersex and self-label as transsexual, transgender, androgyne (being more than one sex or gender) and sinandrogyne (being no sex or gender, i.e. neuter).<sup>2</sup>

There are many sex and gender diverse identities that have not been mentioned but generally we can classify these groups of people as being those who do not physically, mentally or socially present in society as being typical of the bipolar male and female model previously recognised, mainly within societies of European derivation.

Sex is defined as the anatomical and chromosomal genotyping of people into breeding categories or a person

who resembles one of those breeding categories, but who cannot or does not breed.

Gender is defined as the social construction of personal and social performance according to the typical sex type or absence of sex-associated gender identification.

Sexuality is defined as the preference for sexual interaction or its absence.

This study focuses on the relationships of people who are self-identified as sex and gender diverse and their partners. Although it asks interviewees about their sexuality and its changing concomitants, the main axis is on the management of relationships where one or both partners are SGD.



Dr Tracie O'Keefe

## Aim

The aims of this pilot study are to interview six couples in relationships where one or both partners are sex and gender diverse so that we can learn how they cope with their relationships, what difficulties they encounter, and the outside pressures on that relationship in everyday life. While there have been many autobiographies and biographies published about people who are SGD, there has been little study carried out about how those people themselves cope with forming and sustaining close, loving relationships with partners on a monogamous or polygamous basis.

## Method

Six couples were contacted who were known to the author and have one or more partners who are SGD. The partner/s who were SGD had all at some time been involved publicly with campaigning for the rights of sex and gender diverse people so although most people did not know the person was SGD, the person themselves had publicly divulged their SGD to some sectors of society.

The couples were interviewed orally at an appointed time in their own homes, in person or by telephone, when partners were present and each partner could hear what the others were saying. One couple was interviewed long distance by telephone because of accessibility problems.

Each couple was asked a series of approximately ten questions about their backgrounds, previous relationships and families in everyday life. Although there was a general format for the types of questions, sometimes the questions were varied according to what the author thought might be interesting to explore in each case.

## Results

Of the six couples interviewed, their identities could loosely be described as follows:

1. A heterosexual couple where the male had been brought up as female until the teenage years when he underwent sex and gender transition. He identified as a being a man of transsexual origin. The couple had four children by artificial insemination. Their relationship had lasted over twenty years and at the time of the study they wanted to marry but the law in their country does not permit this.
2. What appeared to be a heterosexual couple at first glance, but the female and sometimes androgynous partner had had a sex and gender transition, having been raised as a boy and having gone on to live as female. After transition she moved her self-identification to being sometimes female, sometimes male and sometimes neither or both. The male partner was self-identified as gay. The couple had been married at a community ceremony outdoors, but the law in the State where they lived did not recognise such a ceremony.
3. Two gay men, one of whom had been raised as female and had undergone some surgery and hormone treatment to live as male.
4. A heterosexual couple who had both been brought up as the opposite sex and who are currently married.
5. Two women living together, one of whom had once been the husband in the relationship prior to a sex and gender transition to female. There had been eight children prior to the transition. They were still legally married.
6. A lesbian couple with one partner who had been brought up as a male prior to sex and gender transition from male to female and had been previously married and had fathered three children.

The above description of these relationships is approximate from the interviewer's perspective and, as will become plain during the discussion of the interview as the interviewees describe their relationships, much more complicated and fluid than the aforementioned descriptions. In advance the researcher apologises to the interviewees for her approximation of the relationships used to assist the reader to have some kind of starting place when considering these couples.

## Discussion

In all interviews, the SGD person or persons had undergone a transition from being brought up as one sex and/or gender and then deciding that another sex and/or gender role was more suitable for them.

What was seen was that SGD people and their partners came from different cultural and social backgrounds. Some had fixed and/or religious belief systems and some were brought up in a more liberal atmosphere concerning sex and gender presentation. In order for the SGD person to go forward to transition in the first place, any rigid belief systems had to be altered in order to accept the personal and social change of physical sex and gender performance.

Post-transition, if the person had been brought up in one sex and/or gender and then that sex and/or gender had been reclassified, the person did better if they were more flexible about their own concepts of their sex and gender fluidity.

Partners also did better in the relationship if their concepts of their own selves and partners were fluid and not rigid. In couple 5 the wife was of religious Catholic persuasion and had rejected her husband's sex and/or gender transition, still referring to her as "he" and by the previous male name. Although the couple had genuine affection for each other they seemed to stay together out of fear of being alone rather than a desire to be in that relationship.

From the author's clinical experience she has observed that the rejection of a partner is more likely to occur when a couple could have been living together and then one partner transitions or declares their SGD without warning. This tends to make the other partner insecure in his/her own identity and she/he can become hostile and not wish to continue the relationship.

SGD people can end up with a sexuality that they did not even envisage when they first identified themselves as having SGD issues and were sometimes surprised at how they related to potential partners differently. Couple 4, who were both SGD were profoundly accepting of each other's sexual exploration and the now male partner talked about his foray into a gay male sexual encounter honestly and openly before his partner.

Couple 2 were also fluid about the sex, gender and sexuality of the SGD partner who was in a continual state of flux about what his/her sex, gender and sexuality was. The constant changing of the SGD person's identity was not only not a problem for them, it seemed to be something in which they positively delighted.

Potential partners of SGD partners also do not seem necessarily to rule out a relationship with that person upon learning about their diversity as can be seen from couple 6. The lesbian identified partner of this SGD person stated that it was the attitude of the person that she was

attracted to and was not put off when in public her partner sometimes identified as being SGD.

The absence or presence of anatomical parts was not the most important factor in partners wishing to have relationships with SGD people. Couple 3, in fact, started to date at the beginning of the SGD person's transition to male while breast tissue was still present. The gay male partner of couple 3 still saw his SGD partner as male even though had not had surgery to create a neo-penis.

With couple 1 the transmale partner was also seen as a heterosexual male and farther even though he did not have a penis constructed well into the relationship and after they had had four children. It can be seen for couple 1 that a family unit can be formed post-transition, either as a traditional nuclear family or in a more permissive sense. In this case the biological female partner was able to conceive through an IVF programme and the absence of fertility was not a big problem for them. This would naturally be more difficult for couples where there might be a sex and gender diverse person who was born biologically male who had a partner who was a biological male.

Even though this is a small pilot study it seems that people can form successful relationships with people who are SGD people and vice versa. Partners of SGD diverse people, however, seem to do best when they abandon and dissolve any rigid stereotype concept of sex and gender identity in order for that relationship to work.

One of the major problems that SGD people and their partners suffered was that they encountered prejudice and ignorance about their identities. Relatives, society and the law often rejected them, misperceiving the SGD as a form of sexual perversion and demonising the SGD person and her/his partner. This can amount to discrimination, social excommunication and times violence.

Sometimes SGD people and their partners can be in a position of having to put up with discrimination and prejudice, as although laws often state that such people should not be discriminated against, in reality such discrimination is enshrined in many of our cultures and legal systems.

Certainly being in a position where the law says you are a man in one State and a woman in another leads to disadvantages for SGD people and their partners in the areas of marriage, parental, medical, pension and personal rights, and this can even at times lead to denial of access to common social spaces.

### Study Critique

Because of the many identities that are covered by the description SGD, the author's observations were limited by the small number of couples interviewed.

One major problem that emerged during the collection of data was the accessibility of people who were willing to talk about their SGD identity and its relevancy to their relationships. At the present time there is great suspicion and paranoia in the many SGD self-help networks of professionals in medicine and psychological disciplines carrying out research into SGD people. This has historically arisen because of the many years of clinical abuse that has taken place by many medics and psychologists in attempting to force people to live as stereotypical male or female identities which were other than the person themselves believed would make them happy.

Many intersex people were operated on at birth by surgeons to change their sex and gender presentation without their permission and this practice has led to many intersex people becoming hostile against the scientific community today. This leads to a general paranoia in the intersex community when researchers from the scientific community try to interview them and led in this case to difficulty in assessing information about couples in other intersex relationships.

Another difficulty that this pilot ran into is that it interviews only people who were open about their SGD identity to their partners. The author knows from her own clinical practice that in fact many SGD people do not tell their potential or current partners about their SGD identity, therefore living a secret life with a secret past.

This makes this population of SGD people almost impossible to interview when they have gone into relationships as they live in fear of discovery.

### A future study

Wild estimates as to how frequently SGD people occur in the general population can indeed be sourced from many different scientific disciplines.

What we do know is that genetic, physiological and psycho-social anomalies occur in at least one to two percent of the population that are other than typical male and female.

I will now go on to expand the study to cover a greater number of couples so that the coping strategies developed by more SGD people in relationships can be further examined.

## Conclusions

Whether a person identified as strictly male, female, androgynous or neuter was not a deciding factor in whether those people could make good, trusting, loving relationships work for them. No matter how sex and gender diverse a person was, there seemed to be potential partners who were willing and happy to have relationships with those people.

Neither was the fact that someone passed socially as their desired identity in society a deciding factor as to whether they were able to have good relationships. What is more likely is that interpersonal and social skills are the deciding factors that enable all people to engage with potential partners.

Someone having had a relationship or not, pre-transition, was also not a deciding factor as to whether they were able to have a good relationship post-transition. Previous abusive relationships could, however, have a bearing on the trust factor that all relationships depend on.

## Recommendations for therapists

Psychological and relationship counsellors who find themselves dealing with SGD people and their relationship need to educate themselves about their clients' personalised identities. Although in many cases the client may have a clearly identified medical condition, other clients may reject the medical model and define themselves within the personalised social and

philosophical concepts of their own sex and gender expression.

Other SGD people may be extremely confused about their SGD, ignorant of such things and may need help from a therapist to work towards self-exploration. This may also be true for partners who will also have to adjust the way they see their own identities.

Non-SGD partners in those relationships who have been unexpectedly exposed to their partner's announcement of SGD will find they need a considerable time of adjustment to their own emerging identity and that of the SGD partner. Some never do adjust and prefer to leave relationships or seem to stay under sufferance, feeling victimised.

Therapists also need to help educate people entering into relationships with SGD diversity to embrace sex and gender fluidity with a positive attitude. The partners in this study undoubtedly did far better in the relationship when they had very educated and fluid perspectives about sex, gender and sexuality identity formation.

## References

1. Dreger, Alice Domurat. *Hermaphrodites and the medical invention of sex*. Harvard University Press, London, 1998.
2. O'Keefe, Tracie. *Sex, gender and sexuality: 21st century transformations*. Extraordinary People Press, London, 1999.

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## AGM 2005 Well Attended. Management Committee Spreads Its Aegis

The Annual General Meeting of the Gender Centre was held on Thursday, September 29, at the Petersham Town Hall.

As usual, the Annual Report of the Centre was distributed and comments invited from those present. In general the feeling was that the Centre continues to provide the services for which it has been funded and planned and the contributions of the staff and Management Committee of the Centre were recognised. New members of staff were welcomed and those members of staff who have left the Centre were thanked for their contribution. The Centre has undergone some restructuring of staff responsibilities and these will be reflected in procedures in the coming year. Sean Taylor has returned to the post of Social and Support Officer after a five year absence, and a part-time position of HIV Outreach Officer has been established and filled by Daniel McKinley. The Gender Centre will also be undergoing an exhaustive

accreditation procedure, as Elizabeth has mentioned in her column on p. 4.

The audited balance sheet was included in the Annual Report.

Elections for the Management Committee were held and the following were elected, Col Eglington (President), Leslie Findlay, Kenn Robinson (Treasurer), norrie-mAy-welby (Secretary), Kooncha Brown and Tanya Appleby. The election of Tanya was particularly gratifying since she lives in the Hunter Valley and it is good to see the Management Committee diversifying its membership and ceasing to be as Sydney-centric as it may have appeared to some. It is understood that it is not easy to attend committee meetings if one has to travel for several hours and the dedication required should be appreciated by Gender Centre members who live in regional or country areas.

KC

# What's On?

..... at the Gender Centre

**Parents,  
Partners,  
Family and  
Friends  
of transgender  
people**

Social and Support

Get-togethers

Snacks provided

@ The Gender  
Centre

75 Morgan Street

Petersham

**NOTE: THE NEXT  
PPF&F MEETING WILL BE  
HELD 12 NOON - 4PM  
22 MAY**

## Men's Group

A new men's group will be formed to meet at the Gender Centre once a month if there is sufficient response. Please contact Elizabeth Anne on  
**9569 2366**

### PLEASE NOTE!

Appointments for counselling should be made directly with Elizabeth Anne, the Gender Centre Counsellor.  
Phone 9569 2366 on Monday or Tuesday.

If you are moving, please tell us. Undeliverable issues of *Polare* waste money that could be used for other services.

### PLEASE NOTE!

Apart from the Wednesday night and Friday morning drop-ins, you should make an appointment before coming to the Gender Centre. This helps us to plan and saves you disappointment.

**GENDER CENTRE EVENTS CALENDAR 2005**

Items marked \* must be pre-booked. If you are interested in taking part, contact Rick Winters on 9569 2366

<p><b>january</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>POLARE</p>	<p><b>february</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>Wed 2 2nd electrolysis presentation 6-8pm (drop-in time)  <b>Sat 20</b> Mardi Gras Fair Day (all day at Victoria Park)  <b>Wed 23</b> Sexuality Day 6-8pm Gender Centre (drop-in time)  <b>TBA</b> Anti-Discrimination Info. Day *</p>	<p><b>march</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>POLARE <b>TBA</b> Hair workshop *  <b>TBA</b> Agency Advice day (DOH, Centre, etc.)</p>
<p><b>april</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>Sun 3 Easter Barbecue 11am-4pm  <b>Fri 8</b> Resume and interview skills workshop 10-11am (before drop-in) *</p>	<p><b>may</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>POLARE <b>Tue 3</b> Skincare and makeup workshop (6pm)*<b>RSVP</b>  <b>Tue 10</b> Skincare and makeup workshop (6pm)*<b>RSVP</b>  <b>Tue 17</b> Skincare and makeup workshop (6pm)*<b>RSVP</b></p>	<p><b>june</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><b>Sat 11</b> Car maintenance Workshop 9am-12 noon  <b>Sun 19</b> Winter Barbecue 11am-4pm</p>
<p><b>july</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>POLARE <b>Thur 28</b> Minto Police Museum</p>	<p><b>august</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><b>Thur 18</b> Movie night  <b>Sun 21</b> Picnic  <b>Wed 24</b> TG Ball Post-competition closes (see p.19)  <b>Wed 31</b> Tranny Idol</p>	<p><b>september</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><b>Fri 16</b> Open Forum  <b>Sun 18</b> Spring Barbecue 11am-4pm  <b>Wed 28</b> Photography portrait competition          Car maintenance workshop (boys only) TBC</p>
<p><b>october</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p>POLARE</p>	<p><b>november</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><b>Thur 3</b> Gender Centre Ball 8.00pm-12.30am  <b>Sat 5</b> Hair removal and transition workshop. 9.30-12.30  <b>Sun 20</b> TG/TS Remembrance Day  <b>Fri 25-Sun 27</b> Minto Bush Camp (see p.27)</p>	<p><b>december</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <p><b>Sun 8</b> Christmas Barbecue 11am-4pm</p>

For more information see the Gender Centre's website at [www.gendercentre.org.au](http://www.gendercentre.org.au) or contact Rick at [socialsupport@bigpond.com.au](mailto:socialsupport@bigpond.com.au) or phone 9569 2366 and ask for Rick.

Friday 11am - 1pm  
 Drop-in Coffee Morning

Wednesday  
 Drop-in dinner  
 6-8 pm

**Op-Shop Extravaganza! Call Sean to RSVP!! (See ad. p.13)**

## DO YOU CARE?

Do you, or does someone you know, provide care to a partner, relative or friend?

Does either of you identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender and live in the Sydney Metro Area?

Does the person you care for have a chronic illness, age-related disability or functional impairment?

Would you like to meet other carers in a relaxed environment?

**ACON's GLBT CARER SUPPORT PROJECT** can help by:

- Linking carers with each other
- Providing social activities and respite
- Helping to link you with the services you need

For more information contact:

Kristin (GLBT Support Officer)

Direct 9206 2032

[kmagill@acon.org.au](mailto:kmagill@acon.org.au)

**acon**

community, health and action

### Central Coast Support Group

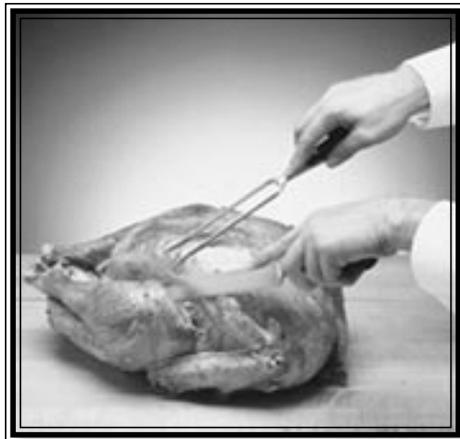
The CCSG started in the 1990s and is a free, unfunded service to all with transgender issues. It is primarily a guidance service for anyone who is starting on Medical and Psychological requirements under the Benjamin Standards of Care.

**(02) 4357 2221 Mon-Sat 10am-10pm**

**[ccmrr@bigpond.com](mailto:ccmrr@bigpond.com)**



**You're invited to Dinner!**



**Friends/Family  
all welcome**

**WEDNESDAY  
nights  
6 - 8pm**

**Yummy food - New friends  
- Free -**

75 Morgan Street - Petersham



**NEEDLE  
EXCHANGE**



75 MORGAN STREET,  
PETERSHAM  
(02) 9569 2366  
10am-5.30pm  
Monday to Friday

A confidential free service for people with gender issues (See Phinn Borg, Outreach Worker)

**Sharps Containers**

**Pill Filters  
Condoms  
Spoons  
Water  
Fit Packs  
Swabs  
Dams**



**Syringes**  
1ml, 2.5ml,  
ml  
**eedles**  
g, 23g,  
--g, 26g

or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr advice, information and referral service. Sydney 02 9331 2111

**A REQUEST FROM THE  
EDITOR**

Please save the Editor unnecessary keyboarding by sending your *Polare* contributions by email or on a floppy disk, if possible.

**THERE'S A TREATMENT CALLED PEP THAT MIGHT STOP YOU GETTING INFECTED\***

*Within a few hours and no later than 3 days.*

**CALL THE PEP 24 HOUR HOTLINE  
1800 737 669  
1800 PEP NOW**

*For more information and your nearest location AN INFORMATION BROCHURE ABOUT PEP IS AVAILABLE AT VENUES, SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRES, ACON, NUAU AND SWOP OR VISIT WWW.ACON.ORG.AU*

## Queensland Gender Centre

The Queensland Gender Centre is run solely by a transsexual here 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 e-mail the Queensland Gender Centre (see p.38 for contact details)**

## Issue Sixty-Six But How Do I Tell My Parents, Workmates, Friends???

*This continues the series of "coming out" letters which I started in Polare 64. The first letters I included were those of Robin Goldstein, a dear friend of mine with whom I had lost touch. Fortuitously she made contact with me shortly after Polare 64 was published. At the end of her piece in 64 I gave my latest information on her, that she had gone back to living as a man although she still categorised herself as "a straight, white, Buddhist, vegetarian, lesbian, fraternity boy, trapped in the body of a recovering transsexual woman patent attorney, with a bizarre sense of humour and a master's degree in city planning."*

*You may be pleased to know, as I was, that her bizarre sense of humour has caused her to backtrack forward to living as female once more.*

KC

*The sample letter for this issue originated with Jacob Hale, an MtF who was working as an academic at a university in Los Angeles. I had the good fortune to meet Jacob (or as I called him, Kodiak Jake) when I was visiting friends in San Diego. Like most MtFs he was absolutely masculine, a charming, witty companion and it was totally impossible to detect any female quality which he might one have known.*

*His letter was mainly for the benefit of his working colleagues, academics and administrators of the university.*

*Jacob wrote:*

This went to all the faculty in my department and to the department secretaries, with copies to the dean, associate dean, and the mtf colleague mentioned in the letter. A shorter, more formal letter went to the provost.

Dear Professor X:

I am writing to inform you that I am in the process of transitioning from female to male. I will begin teaching under my new name, 'Jacob Hale', at the beginning of Fall 1995. The legal change of my name and sex status, in accordance with the laws of the State of California, will occur between the end of Summer Session I and Fall 1995.

This transition is both deadly serious and extraordinarily joyous for me. I have been struggling with gender pain for as long as I can remember. Never had I felt the profound sense of peace which I felt that morning when I awoke knowing that I was on the verge of transitioning into manhood. Although I have had moments of worry and fear since that morning, these worries and fears have been about possible problems others might cause me. That

feeling of peacefulness at my core has stayed with me. For the first time in my life, I am at peace with myself.

You will, no doubt, notice a number of physical and behavioral changes in me over the next few months. Please be assured that I am entirely healthy and that these changes are necessary for my well-being. I realize that my transition will require some adjustments on your part, as well as on mine. For example, I am sure it will take awhile for all of you to become accustomed to calling me "Jacob" or "Jake," and to using masculine pronouns to refer to me. I won't be a stickler about this but I do expect you to make an effort and, over time, to succeed. If you're more comfortable starting to call me "Jacob" or "Jake" now, that's fine; or, if you're more comfortable waiting until the start of Fall 1995, that's fine too. I anticipate that both names will be used for awhile.

There is nothing confidential or secret, in any way whatsoever, about this information.

If you have any questions about this that I might be able to answer, I sincerely hope you will feel free to ask me. I feel quite comfortable talking about my transition, and would much prefer talking with you than having misconceptions exist due to lack of knowledge about transsexualism, particularly about female-to-male transsexualism. Two other people you may contact for more information are my therapist G\*\* B\*\*\*\*\* [phone number deleted] and [name/phone number deleted], who transitioned male-to-female as an Associate Professor in the Department of [deleted] at Cal State, Northridge.

I have already spoken with Dean Jorge Garcia, Acting Associate Dean Donald Hall, and Professor Daniel Sedey, Chair of the Department of Philosophy, about how to ensure that my transition will cause the least disruption possible at work. All three have been extremely helpful and supportive, which I appreciate deeply. I will continue to work with them on this. If any of you have any suggestions about this, I would appreciate hearing them. However, I'm sure that my newly found sense of internal peace, my comfort with myself, cannot help but enable me to become an even more effective teacher, scholar, and participant in the Cal State, Northridge, community.

I would have liked to have written individual letters to each of you, but clearly this is impractical. Still, please accept my apology for this somewhat mechanical form of communication, and please, as I said before, feel free to talk with me about this.

Sincerely,

(girl-name deleted), Associate Professor

# Fit X, the GLBT-friendly Gym

Issue Sixty-Six

## MINTO BUSH CAMP

### WEEKEND AWAY

Hi all,

**Minto Bush camp is back after five years, everyone is welcome, transgender people, friends and families. This is a weekend away to relax, sit by the fire and chat or you may want to go swimming or bushwalking. Saturday night is disco night so bring along something fabulous and exciting to wear. Be quick to book a seat if you need transport as we are finding ourselves limited in transport space. People who need a lift, contact Sean.**

**Presented by Sean Taylor**

**Location: Minto Bush  
Camp**

**Address: Lot 6 Howard  
Rd, Minto Road,  
Minto Heights**

**Date: 25-27 November  
2005**

**Time: 2.00pm at the Gender  
Centre on Fri 25 November**

**Phone: (02) 9569 2366**

**Email:  
socialsupport@bigpond.com**

**RSVP: Monday 7 November  
2005**

**Cost: \$30.00 unemployed or  
\$60.00 employed (includes food  
and accommodation)**

#### WHAT TO BRING

**Swimmers, runners, towel,  
toiletries, pillowcase, linen and  
quilt or sleeping bag.**



*In this article James interviews Erina, a transgendered client and shows the real advantages to the GLBT community in having access to a gym like Fit X.*

**James: Hi, Erina, tell me and Polare readers a bit about yourself.**

*Erina: I live at the Gender Centre, I'm one the residents. I wanted to lose a bit of weight so I started doing some power walking. But then winter started. I wanted to carry on exercising but it was too cold and I saw the ad for Fit X Gym. It was a big step for me.*

**J: How long have you been coming to Fit X Gym?**

*E: About three weeks now.*

**J: You mentioned that this was a big step for you, what sort of things were you worried about?**

*E: Yeah, I pushed myself through the door because I suppose I had too many expectations. Like most people I worried about what to wear, how you look. In most gyms most people wear the latest fashion. I can wear anything here and not compete with anyone.*

**J: Were you worried about being transgender?**

*E: I probably would be in another gym, but I didn't feel uncomfortable being transgender here.*

**J: What do you hope to achieve by going to Fit X Gym?**

*E: Weight loss. Have a bit more energy. Have a nice body and losing a lot more weight. Generally meeting a lot of friendly people,*

*and being here, it does feel good to fit in.*

**J: How do you find the exercises?**

*E: The exercises are easy if you're determined to lose weight or tone. Ingrid's program is brilliant.*

*At first I looked at everyone else and what they were doing, but they have their programs and I do my own*

*I recommend it to everyone to join*

**J: How's it going, working with Ingrid, our Personal trainer?**

*E: She is a wonder. The program suits me and my body, she does a great job*

**J: So what is your goal going to Fit X Gym?**

*E: hopefully I can get toned down for the Sleaze Ball, so I can show a bit of flesh*

**J: Oh, what are you going to wear?**

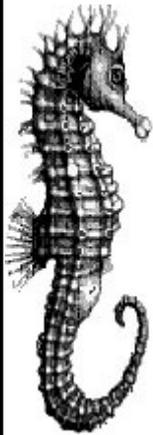
*E: it's a secret, I have a surprise already made, so I'm not telling*

**J: Well thank you so much Erina, is there anything else you would like me to mention?**

*E: I want my friends to come, they shouldn't be so shy, the guys and gals are accepting and very friendly.*

**Fit X Gym is Sydney's oldest non-profit GLBTQ gym. We are run by volunteers to keep our fee's low. Ingrid, our Personal trainer is fully qualified and accredited. Being in the Acon building, we are easily accessible by public transport. Contact us on 9206 2000 or speak to Ingrid on 0400712 964.**





THE 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.

## NSW Seahorse Society

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW INC  
PO BOX 168 WESTGATE NSW 2048

Call us 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”**

### problems?

You can write to  
**The Counsellor**  
**The Gender Centre**  
**PO Box 266**  
**Petersham**  
**NSW 2049**

### questions?

If you do not wish to be identified, make up a name for yourself or come in and talk confidentially with the Counsellor (by appointment only)

### concerns?

**Hours**  
9am - 5pm  
Monday and Tuesday only  
Email:  
[counsellortgc@bigpond.com.au](mailto:counsellortgc@bigpond.com.au)  
Elizabeth Anne 9569 2366

### let the beautiful you shine

**Make-up Application Department & Self Esteem**

**Transgender Specialist**

**Sharon White**

**AGENCIES**

**(08) 8277 8085 Mob.0412 183 151**

**[swa@bigpond.net.au](mailto:swa@bigpond.net.au)**

**[www.sharonwhiteagencies.com.au](http://www.sharonwhiteagencies.com.au)**

## MUSICIANS WANTED

for pop/rock band.  
Gender diverse are preferred.

Looking for  
drummer, bass,  
guitar, singer,  
keyboards or  
other musicians.  
contact Cherry

**0419 512 857**



## Central Coast Transgender Group Forming

A group aimed at networking persons of transsexual history and who live/work on the CENTRAL COAST of NSW, AUSTRALIA. Transsexuals, others identifying as transgender, crossdressers and partners who have a connection with the Central Coast are welcome to join. This group is about fostering friendship amongst ts, cd, tg persons and the rest of the trans community. Even if group emails are not your thing please join the contact list (in DATABASE) so that it might act as an email and postcode directory of who's who on the Central Coast. Feel free to email and introduce yourself to both the group and any members near your postcode :) Whether you are a crossdresser who prefers their topic to be crossdressing; or a transsexual who prefers to converse on matters of transition please respect and tolerate every members right to be different and remember the primary goal is to facilitate contact :) NOT A DATING SITE; SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT OR CONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

**<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/centralcoastts/>**

# *Queer Out West*

89.3 FM 2GLF *Community*

*Radio*

**EVERY MONDAY MIGHT FROM 10.00PM  
UNTIL MIDNIGHT**

**Proudly broadcasting to the gay,  
lesbian, bisexual and transgender  
communities in Sydney's West and all  
those friendly to the issues**

**THE GOAL OF "Queer Out West" is to  
provide a forum for groups and  
individuals to let the community know  
about social events, fund-raisers and  
other community activities in the  
western suburbs, as well as playing  
some great music and having a bit of  
fun along the way!!**

**So join Joe, Paul, Beverly, Suze, Matt  
and Kathy every Monday night from  
10.00pm until midnight.**

**Do you want to contact us? There are a  
number of ways...**

**For social events, fund-raiser and out n'  
about contact**

**Miss Beverly Buttercup via:  
email: [beverlybuttercup@hotmail.com](mailto:beverlybuttercup@hotmail.com)  
Fax: (02) 9605.3252  
or write to:**

**PO Box 3357 Liverpool, NSW 2170**

**For general enquiries, community news,  
contact Joe or Paul via:**

**email: [queeroutwest@hotmail.com](mailto:queeroutwest@hotmail.com)  
phone: (02) 9822 8893 (10pm-midnight  
only)**

We are joined once a month by  
Jonathon Street from ACON  
Western Sydney. If you have any  
enquiries or questions you can  
contact him via  
email: [aconwest@acon.org.au](mailto:aconwest@acon.org.au)  
phone: (02) 9204 2400

## **AUBURN SEX WORKER PROJECT**

**If you are involved in the  
sex industry and live or  
work in the Auburn area,  
why not drop in for a  
cuppa and chat to us  
about the services you  
want in the area.**

**This service provides free con-  
doms, lube, dental dams, nee-  
dle exchange, information and  
referrals.**

**Please call Sashi on (02) 9646 2233  
or**

**0408 445 753**

**for a confidential and anonymous  
chat or drop in at the Community  
Health Centre  
at**

**9 Northumberland Road,  
Auburn  
(next to RSL)**

**This project is run by the HIV/HEP C Prevention  
Service to increase the services available to  
sex industry workers who either work or live  
in the Auburn Local Government Area.**

**Don't Forget To Tell Us If  
You'd Like To Receive  
The Email Edition of  
*Polare!***

***In CoLoUR!!!***

***And Sooner!!!!***

**[resourcestgc@bigpond.com](mailto:resourcestgc@bigpond.com)**

# Colour Ad from Hairstop

## International Sex, Gender & Sexuality Clinic

**Director: Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH, RMCAPA, PACFA**

**Doctor of Clinical Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapist & Counsellor**

**Specialist in Sex and Gender Identity Issues**

- Face to Face Consultations in Sydney
- Telephone & Videophone Consultations Available
- Trans Life Coaching
- Hormonal and Surgical Referrals When Applicable
- Member of Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association
- Author of *Sex, Gender & Sexuality: 21st Century Transformations* (1999) & Co-Editor of *Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex & Gender Diversity* (2003)

**Ph +61 2 9562 6802**

Australian Health & Education Centre, 3 Glebe Place, 131-145 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2027

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



## Makeup Workshop

The Workshop will be presented by Sathya who is a qualified makeup artist.

There will be a series of four Makeup Workshops on Wednesdays

2, 9, 16, 13 November 2005  
from 7.30pm to 9.00pm

To book your place or for more information call 9569 2366

or

email [socialsupport@bigpond.com](mailto:socialsupport@bigpond.com)

## Fit, Fitter ..... Fit X!

For over a quarter of a century Fit X Gym has been in the business of serving Sydney's GLBTQ community with low cost fitness options. We are a nonprofit group, run by volunteers which enable us to keep costs down.

Fit X Gym recently celebrated it's re-opening in the ACON Building. We're open M-F 4.30–7.30pm.

Now we're easier to get to, even by public transport, just a short walk from Museum Station. Fit X Gym @ ACON is very close to Hyde Park, 9 Commonwealth St, Darlinghurst is probably a 2 minute walk.

Three mornings per week we reserve the gym exclusively for Hiv +ve folk. We subsidize The Positive Access Project (PAP) so that people with a health care card can join in, for only \$2.50 a visit or even cheaper is getting a 10 visit card for \$20.

I'm the attendant on Friday's. When I think about what I like most about PAP, it is how relaxed it is.

When I see groups getting together and having a chat about this or that, I can't help think different we are to other gyms.

Can't stand the super loud music?

Loathe the idea of prancing around in fashionable gym wear?

Shudder at the thought of all those mirrors!

So do I. Next time you're in the Acon building, why not pop down to Fit X Gym and say hello?

You'll find only a few mirrors and regular people taking control of their health. No G strings in sight. It's not a fashion parade. No Muscle Marys or testosterone pumped bubble heads.

Oh! The music, we encourage people to bring their own!

In a recent issue of Polare I was prompted to consider the experiences of transitioning people. We are your body shape change experts. If there is enough interest in getting a group together, we at Fit X Gym would like to see how we could best fulfill your needs.

Send me an email, the address is at the end of this article. Let's talk, would you prefer the gym to reserve a time exclusively, like we do for PAP? Or would an outreach program suit better?

Let's create a safe place, that's relaxed, unpretentious and friendly. Where, we at Fit X Gym can support you in this journey, so that you can reach YOUR goals. Talk to Ingrid our qualified trainer and she'll be happy to devise a plan just for you, individually. To book for your Free first time, ring 0400 712 964.

Are you interested in a career in the Fitness Industry? Why not volunteer some time with us, see if it's something your interested in. Also, if you are currently studying, Ingrid our fully qualified instructor can supervise the practical component of your training.

So next time you're thinking about getting fit, or fitter – think Fit X Gym

Fit X Gym @ Acon, 9 Commonwealth St, Darlinghurst,

Ph. 9206 2000 or Ingrid 0400 712 964    james@rebalancelifecoaching.com

# Diverse Sexualities Access Project

## **Improving access by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young people to community and generalist services in the Nepean**

This new four-year project aims to improve access to community and generalist services by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young people in the Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury Local Government Areas. It will work with a wide range of peak, funding and policy-making bodies, service-providers and other stakeholders in order to build community partnerships, provide information, advocate best practices relating to service provision and promote the needs and views of local young, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

An integral part of my role as Project Worker will be active consultation with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young people. I am very interested to hear about your experiences in accessing community and generalist services in your area.

### **Have you ever:**

- Had a hard time finding a service that you needed?
- Been discriminated against or treated with disrespect by a service?
- Had your needs ignored by a service?
- used a service that treated you really well?

If you would like to let me know about your experiences, offer suggestions, or get more information about the project feel free to get in touch with me using the contacts below.

Robert Reynolds  
Diverse Sexualities Access Project Worker

Diverse Sexualities Access Project  
PO Box 627  
Penrith, NSW, 2751

Phone: (02) 4721 5024  
Mobile: 0439 481 008  
Fax: (02) 4721 5922  
Email: [outsidein@pnc.com.au](mailto:outsidein@pnc.com.au)

This project is funded by the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and auspiced by South Penrith Youth and Neighbourhood Services Incorporated.

## **Anybody forty years old or older wishing to join a social club for meeting, friendship or just commutation with others who are lonely...**

This is an opportunity to meet others who are the same boat.

**It can be a way of exchanging phone numbers or meeting people in your area who are looking for someone to socialise with or make friends**

for more information please contact TANYA on (02) 4948 1012 or Fax (02) 4948 1017 or email [apples6@bigpond.net.com](mailto:apples6@bigpond.net.com)



**FTM Accommodation**  
 Folks going to Melbourne in regards to any stage of GRS. Accommodation is available which is close to the hospital and the surgeons rooms. Information on how to get around in Melbourne is also readily available.  
**M I C H A E L**  
 Ph: (03) 5975 8916 or 0405 102 142  
 pathwaysau@yahoo.com.au

**A Touch of Glamour**  
 359 Parramatta Rd, Leichhardt  
**02 9550.9654**  
 Tue-Fri 9.30am to 5.30pm  
 Sat 10.00am to 4.00pm  
 Lovely Lingerie - (10 - 26)  
 Bras, Gaffs  
 Shoes & Boots - (7 - 14)  
 Corsets, Waspies  
 Breast Prosthesis  
 Wigs, Beardcover, etc.  
[www.glamourworld.net](http://www.glamourworld.net)

**The Wisdom Development Centre**  
 Personal empowerment and achievable lifestyle goals with financial freedom.  
**Live Your Dream Please phone: Madeline or Dennis (02) 9488 9943 or 0402 145 583**

## May I Have Your Attention Please!

An ad. this size costs \$11 an issue, including GST.

**Online Counselling N.S.W**  
 GLBT Friendly Qualified Counsellor.  
 Free public Self-Help Forums.  
 Contact: Alex Gibson.  
 Email: alexg75@pnc.com.au  
[www.onlinecounsellingnsw.com](http://www.onlinecounsellingnsw.com)

**The Caci Clinic**  
**Laser Hair Removal**  
 The Caci Clinic offers professional and friendly service to its many transgender clients. Come for a free consultation or call us for a chat.  
**Treatments from \$70!**  
 Clearskincare and The Caci Clinic  
 Level 1, 100 New South Head Rd  
 Ph:(02) 9328 7111

**Beauty Therapist GLBT Friendly**  
 Fully qualified for all your Beauty needs  
 waxing - tints -make-up -facials - massage- reflexology - manicures - pedicures- aromatherapy - earpiecing  
**Mobile service available servicing Camberra and environs**  
**Phone Simone 0414 517 376**

**FREE HOME TUTORING in reading and writing for adults (nights preferred)**  
 Call Margot 9335 2536 or Mim 9335 2350  
 @ Petersham TAFE

**Wigs International**  
 12 King Street - Newtown 2042  
[www.wigsinternational.com.au](http://www.wigsinternational.com.au)  
[wigsinternational@bigpond.com](mailto:wigsinternational@bigpond.com)  
 ★ We specially invite all Polare readers to a 20% discount on all our wigs. (Custom made excluded)  
 ★ You can have the hair you've always wanted - gorgeous!!!  
 ★ Private rooms available (transgender friendly)  
 ★ Call Jodie or Ingrid - 9519.5206

**crossdressers!**  
 Looking for closeted guys who dress up as women. Invitation party fun meetings, join free! Feminisation secrets revealed "come out". New lifestyle, self-esteem, confidence. Send SAE for information to Les Girls, Locker 504, Burwood, 1805

Goods and services advertisements are the responsibility of the Advertiser under the Trade Practices Act. The Gender Centre does not imply an endorsement of the goods, services or advertiser. The Gender Centre recommends that consumers exercise common sense and draw their own conclusions on the goods and services advertised in *Polare*. The Gender Centre will not be held responsible for any misfortune nor will it indemnify readers against any harm incurred. The distribution of *Polare* is targeted and is not intended for general distribution.

**To Place an Advertisement for Goods and Services in Polare:**  
 Please contact the Editor of *Polare*:  
[resourcestgc@bigpond.com](mailto:resourcestgc@bigpond.com) or by faxing details to 9569.1176 attention to *Polare* Editor. Advertisements are included in *Polare* based on the space available in the magazine. Advertisements in this section should not contain images or logos and should bear some specific relation to the transgender community. Services and goods provided by and for transgender people are preferred.

## New South Wales

### THE 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 or Thursday 10am - 5.00pm.

#### Outreach service

Available to clients in the inner city area on Tuesday nights from 6.00pm to 2 a.m. and on Thursdays from 10am - 5.30pm by appointment only. Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Friday 10am - 5.30pm. Also available to clients confined at home, in hospital or gaol - By appointment only. For an appointment contact Outreach Worker - 0407 929 915.

#### 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.

#### 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 bi-monthly magazine *Polare* and a regularly updated website at: [www.gendercentre.org.au](http://www.gendercentre.org.au)

For more information contact the Resource Development worker on Monday or Wednesday.

#### 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.

#### Residential service

Provides semi-supported share accommodation for up to 11 residents who are 16 and over. Residents can stay for up to 12 months and are supported as they move towards independent living. They are also encouraged to consider a range of options available to meet their needs. 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.

#### 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.

#### 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

Gender Centre General Manager, 75 Morgan Street or PO Box 266

Petersham NSW 2049

Tel: (02) 9569.2366

Fax: (02) 9569.1176

[gendercentre@bigpond.com](mailto:gendercentre@bigpond.com)

<http://www.gendercentre.org.au>

For after hours counselling contact **Lifeline** on 131 114 or the **Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service**

4pm-midnight seven days on

(02) 9207.2800

1800 805 379

<http://www.glcnsnsw.org.au/>

### 2010 - TWENTY TEN/ RECONNECT

Twenty 10 is a Sydney-based gay and lesbian youth support service.

We provide counselling and accommodation support to young gays and lesbians between the ages of 13-25 years. The Reconnect program is a NSW-wide program and, where appropriate, re-connecting youth with their families.

PO Box 553, Newtown, NSW, 2042

#### Youth callers needing help:

Sydney local: (02) 8594 9555

Rural NSW : 1800.65.2010

#### All other callers:

(02) 8594 9550

Fax: (02) 8594 9559

Email: [info@2010.asn.au](mailto:info@2010.asn.au)

Web page: [www.twenty10.org](http://www.twenty10.org)

### ACON-AIDS COUNCIL OF NSW

Information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Tel: (02) 9206.2000

Fax: (02) 9206.2069

tty: (02) 9283 2088

### ACON-HUNTER

129 Maitland Road

PO Box 220

Islington 2296

Tel: (02) 4927 6808

Fax: (02) 4927 6485

[hunter@acon.org.au](mailto:hunter@acon.org.au)

<http://www.acon.org.au>

### ACON -MID-NORTH COAST

4 Hayward Street

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: (02) 6584 0943

Fax: (02) 6583 3810

### 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](mailto:northernrivers@acon.org.au)

### ACON-WESTERN SYDNEY

6 Darcy Road,

Wentworthville, 2145

Tel: (02) 9204 2400

Fax: (02) 9891 2088

[aconwest@acon.org.au](mailto:aconwest@acon.org.au)

### AFAO(AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS)

National AIDS lobby and safe sex promotion organisation.

PO Box 51

Newtown 2042

Tel: (02) 9281.1999

Fax: (02) 9281.1044

### 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

### ASTRA (ASSOCIATION OF SEXY TRANSVESTITES)

An erotic social club for the bold and the beautiful! All ages, shapes and sizes. Discreet meetings, weekly parties.

PO Box 502

Glebe NSW 2037

### 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.

Tel: (02) 9283 8666

free call 1800 651 011

web [www.bgf.org.au](http://www.bgf.org.au); email

[bgf@bgf.org.au](mailto: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. Brings together transgenders, their families and friends and provides support and understanding in a non-counselling atmosphere.

Operates 9 am - 8pm Mon - Fri

Tel: 0412 700 924

### CELLBLOCK YOUTH HEALTH SERVICE

Free and confidential holistic health service for young people between the ages of twelve and twenty who are homeless or at risk. Medical and dental services, counselling, music and visual arts program, health promotion.

SPACE group for young people questioning their sexuality or gender.

142 Carillon Avenue, Camperdown

Tel: (02) 9516 2233

### (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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
mnc@acon.org.au  
4 Hayward St, Port Macquarie,  
2444  
POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

### FOLEY HOUSE

A safe and supportive residential service for people at risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV, HAV, HBV and HCV and other infectious diseases. Assessments for residency are by appointment only and can be arranged by contacting a Residential Support worker.  
6-8 Bellevue St,  
Surry Hills  
PO Box 331, Surry Hills NSW  
2010  
Tel: (02) 9211.0544  
Fax:  
(02)9211.0778admin@foley.org.au  
www.foley.org.au

### FTMAUSTRALIA

Support, education and information for ftms, transmen and all affirming their masculine identity. TORQUE, resource manual and much more.  
Tel: (02)9571.9245 - Craig Andrews  
Email: info@ftmaustralia.org  
Web: www.ftmaustralia.org  
PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW, 2037

### 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

### INNERCITYLEGAL CENTRE

Available to discuss any legal matter that concerns you.  
Tel: (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

### KIRKETONROADCENTRE

Needle exchange and other services. Clinic Hours:  
Monday to Friday, 10am - 6pm  
Saturday to Sunday, 2pm - 6pm  
Outreach Bus - Every Night  
100 Darlinghurst Road  
(Entrance above the Kings Cross Fire Station - on Victoria Street)  
PO Box 22, Kings Cross, NSW, 2011  
Tel: (02) 9360.2766  
Fax: (02) 9360.5154

### LES GIRLS CROSSDRESSERS 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

### LIVINGSTONE ROAD SEXUALHEALTH CLINIC

Provides a free and confidential range of health, counselling and support services.  
182 Livingstone Rd  
Marrickville NSW 2204  
Tel:(02) 9560.3057 (2-5pm)  
Fax: (02) 9568.333

### NEON

is a support and social group for transgender people of all ages. It's a chance to get to gether and discuss experiences, gain support and make friends. We meet at the ACON-Hunter office on the last Wednesday of every month from 7pm to 9pm.  
Tel: ((02) 4927 6808 (ask for Cath)  
email: cadams@acon.org.au

### (MCC)METROPOLITAN COMMUNITYCHURCH

MCC Sydney is linked with other MCC churches in Australia as part of an international fellowship of Christian churches, with a special concern for any who feel excluded by established religious groups. MCC deplores all forms of prejudice, 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 Street, Petersham 2049  
Phone: (02) 9569.5122  
Fax: (02) 9569.5144  
Worship Times:  
Sundays 10.00 am & 7.30 pm  
mcc@eagles.bbs.net.au  
http://www.mccsydney.org.au/

### MOUNTDRUITTLUXFORD ROADCLINIC

Provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.  
Ph: (02) 9881 1733  
Mon 1.00pm-4.00pm  
Wed 9.00am-12.30pm  
Fri 9.00am-12.30pm  
Every second Thursday 9.00am-12.30pm

### NEWCASTLE SWOP

SWOP at Newcastle has a Mobile Sexual Health Team  
0249 276 808

### NORTHAIDS

A community based organisation providing step down and respite care for PLWHA on the Northern Beaches.  
Tel: (02) 9982 2310

### NUAA - NSW USERS AND AIDSASSOCIATION

A peer-based community organisation providing education on safe injecting, safe using and safe sex. Information on services for injecting drug users. Free needles, swabs, water, spoons, condoms, dams, gloves and lube. Free newsletter and material on HIV and AIDS and other topics of interest or concern to people using drugs illicitly.  
345 Crown St, Surry Hills, NSW  
2010  
PO Box 278, Darlinghurst, NSW,  
1300  
Tel: (02) 8354 7300  
Tollfree:1800.644.413  
Fax: (02) 8354 7350  
admin@nuaa.org.au

### PARRAMATTA SEXUAL HEALTHCLINIC

provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.  
Level 2, Parramatta Health Service,  
158 Marsden (cnr. George St)  
Parramatta 2150  
Ph: (02) 9843 3124  
Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm  
Tue 10.00am-4.00pm  
Thu 4.00pm-7.30pm

### PLWHA) PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

PO Box 831, Darlinghurst NSW  
2010  
Tel: (02) 9361.6011  
Fax: (02) 9360.3504  
http://www.plwha.org.au/  
**Katoomba:**  
P.O. Box 187  
Katoomba NSW 2780  
Tel: (02) 4782.2119  
http://www.hermes.net.au/plwha/  
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.  
Tel: (02) 9206.2000  
http://www.acon.org.au/education/womens/campaigns.htm

### REPIDU

Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users  
Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm Sat & Sun,  
1 - 5 Deliveries Tue, Fri 6 - 9  
151 Pitt St, Redfern, NSW, 2016  
Tel: (02) 9699.6188

### SAGEFOUNDATION(Sexand GenderEducationFoundation)

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 a non-profit organisation. All are welcome.  
Ph: 0421 479 285  
Email:  
SAGE\_Foundation@yahogroups.com

### SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW

The Seahorse Society is an incorporated non-profit self help group funded entirely by members' contributions. Membership is 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 168, Westgate, NSW 2048  
or Tel: 0401.007.894  
http://www.geocities.com/seahorsesoc/  
seahorsesoc@hotmail.com

### SOUTH COAST of NSW

from Ulladulla to the VIC Border. We are a group of like-minded people trying to establish a social and support group. Jen Somers, Sexual Health Counsellor, Narooma Community Health Centre, Marine Drive  
Narooma, NSW 2546  
Tel: (02) 4476.1372  
Mob: 0407 214.526  
Fax: (02) 4476 1731  
jenni.somers@sahs.nsw.gov.au

### (SWOP) SEX WORKERS OUTREACH TRANSGENDER SUPPORT PROJECT

Provides confidential services for trannies in sex work within NSW.  
69 Abercrombie Street  
Chippendale NSW  
PO Box 1354  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012  
Tel: (02) 9319.4866  
Fax: (02) 9310.4262  
info@swop.org.au  
http://www.swop.org.au/  
0249 276 808

**SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK**

An organisation which provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly people to get together in welcoming, comfortable, safe and friendly spaces. Pub social in Newtown on 3rd Sunday of every month followed by a meal. Everybody welcome.

PO Box 281 Broadway NSW 2007  
Tel: (02) 9565.4281 (info line)  
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

**SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE**

Provides free, confidential health services, including sexuality, sexual function, counselling and testing and treatment of STDs including HIV.

Level 3, Nightingale Wing, Sydney Hospital, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW, 2000.

Tel: (02) 9382 7440 or freecall from outside Sydney 1800 451 624 (8.30am-5.00pm) Fax:(02) 9832 7475

sshc@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

**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

**WESTERN SYDNEY HIV/HEP C PREVENTION SERVICE**

Needle and syringe program  
158 Marsden St, Parramatta NSW 2150

Ph: (02) 9843 3124  
Fax: (02) 9893 7103

**WOLLONGONG - TRAN**

Transgender Resource and Advocacy Network.

A service for people who identify as a gender other than their birth gender. Providing a safe and confidential place to visit, phone or talk about gender issues.

Thursday AND Friday 9am - 5pm  
Tel: (02) 4226.1163

**WOMENS & 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

**A.C.T.**

**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

**PLWHA (PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS)**

People living with HIV/AIDS ACT provides peer based support, advice and advocacy for people with HIV/AIDS in a relaxed friendly environment.

Westlund House, Acton ACT 2601  
GPO Box 229, Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6257.4985  
Fax: (02) 6257.4838  
plwhaact@hotmail.com.au

**SWOPACT (SEX WORKER OUTREACH PROJECT)**

Provides services for people working in the sex industry in the ACT.

29 Lonsdale Street, Braddon, ACT, 2601  
PO Box 67, Braddon, ACT, 2601

Tel: (02) 6247 3443  
Fax: (02) 6247 3446  
E-mail: actswop@webone.com.au

**Northern Territory**

**NORTHERN TERRITORY AIDS & HEPATITIS COUNCIL**

(incorporating People Living With HIV/AIDS and/or HEP C, the Needle Syringe Program, the Sex Worker Outreach Project and Community Education)

GPO Box 2826, Darwin, NT, 0801  
46 Woods Street, Darwin  
Tel: (08) 8941 1711

Freecall: 1800 880 899  
Mensline: 1800 181 888 information and referral for gay, bisexual, MSM and men who are curious about their sexuality  
Email: infor@ntahc.org.au  
www.ntahc.au

**Queensland**

**(ATSAQ) AUSTRALIAN TRANSGENDERIST SUPPORT ASSOC. OF QLD.**

A non-profit organisation providing counselling, support, referral and information, crisis counselling, drug and alcohol for transgender people, their families and friends.

Ph: (07) 3843 5024  
Email: trans.atsa@pacific.net.au

**BRISBANE GENDER CLINIC**

Doctors from private practices with an understanding of the transgender community ARE available for consultation by appointment each Wednesday afternoon from 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

Phone (07) 3238 4081  
Level 1, 270 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000

**GOLD COAST SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC**

A public sexual health clinic with an interest in and experience of transgender medicine. Medical staff, nursing staff, dietician, psychologist. Referral to speech pathology, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, surgeons available. Consultations free, by appointment.

2019 Gold Coast Highway  
PO Bopx 44, Miami, Qld, 4220  
Ph: (07) 5576 9033  
fax(07) 5576 9030

**QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE**

Transsexual semi-supported accommodation available to those who identify as Transgender and who are drug and alcohol free. Accommodation available for six or twelve months.

PO Box 2032, Windsor, QLD 4030  
Ph: (07) 3357 6361  
australia\_post@hotmail.com  
www.geocities.com/

**SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF QLD**

We provide a safe environment for members and other persons in their lives to meet and socialise and offer counselling where possible. We are wholly self-funded And open to both sexes no matter what their sexuality  
PO Box 574 Annerley QLD 4102  
www.geocities.com/  
WestHollywood/8009/  
seahorse@powerup.com.au

**(SQWIS) SELF HEALTH FOR QUEENSLAND WORKERS IN THE SEX INDUSTRY**

Provides a confidential service for trannies working in the sex industry in Queensland. Offices in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Cairns. Also has an exit and retraining house for sex workers wanting to leave the sex industry.

**404 Montague Road, West End, QLD**

PO Box 5649, West End Qld 4101  
Tel: 1800 118 021  
Fax: (07) 3846 4629  
Email: sqwisib@sqwisi.org.au

**Andrejic Arcade, Suite 32, 55 Lake Street,**

PO Box 6041, Cairns, Qld, 4870  
Tel: (07) 4031 3522  
Fax: (07) 4031 0996  
Email: sqwisc@sqwisi.org.au

**Level 1 Trust House**

3070 Gold Coast Highway, Surfers Paradise, Qld, 4217  
PO Box 578, Surfers Paradise, Qld 4217  
Tel: 1800 118 021  
Fax: (07) 5531 6671  
Email: sqwisige@sqwisi.org.au

**Level 3 Post Office Arcade**

Flinders Street, Townsville, Qld, 4871  
PO Box 2410, Townsville, Qld, 4810  
Ph: 1800 118 021  
Fax: (07) 4721 5188  
Email: sqwisit@sqwisi.org.au

## TRANSBRIDGE

A support group for transgenders in the Townsville area. We have connections with sexual health, mental health, AIDS counselling and others by association.

374 Fulham Road, Heatley, Townsville, 4814

If we can help you at any time we have a mobile phone for twenty-four hour support at:

0412 168 299

Home phone/fax (07) 4779 9229

## South Australia

### CARROUSEL CLUB

A non-profit, social group that operates as a support group for persons with gender issues, and provides social outlets. Produces a Club Newsletter every two months.

PO Box 721, Marleston SA 5033

Tel: (08) 8411.0874

ccsai@hotmail.com

www.geocities.com/carrousel\_2000

### CHAMELEONS

Counselling, information and support aimed at minimising the isolation of transgender people in South Australia.

PO Box 2603

Kent Town SA 5071

Tel: (08) 8293 3700

Fax: (08) 8293 3900

AH: (08) 8346 2516

### DARLING HOUSE

#### COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A non-profit, community based resource that operates as a joint project of the AIDS Council of SA and the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of SA Inc.

64 Fullarton Rd Norwood

PO Box 907 Kent Town

South Australia 5071

Tel: (08) 362.3106

Fax: (08) 363.1046

### SHINE-SEXUALHEALTH

Networking and Education South Australia Inc. (formerly Family Planning South Australia) provides sexual and reproductive health services for the South Australian community.

17 Phillips Street, Kensington,

SA. 5068 Tel: (08) 8431 5177

Fax: (08) 8364 2389

### (SATS) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRANSSEXUALSUPPORT GROUP

A support group for transsexuals who have changed or are about to change their gender role and their

partners. Also provides information on transsexualism for the community and people with gender identity difficulties.

SATS C/o PO Box 907

Kent Town SA 5071

or the Gay and Lesbian Counselling

Service (Gayline) on: (08) 8362

2223 or country on 1800 182 223

or Sarah on 0409 091 663 or

www.tgfolk.net/sites/satsg/

hrt.html

email: supportsa@yahoo.com

http://host2.mbcmmms.net.au/tg/

supportsa

or the mirror site at:

www.geocities.com/

WestHollywood/Heights/8291

## Tasmania

### WORKING IT OUT

Tasmania's peak body for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities. It provides a number of services statewide - counselling and support; professional development, community education and training in the areas of gender identity and sexual identity; and a "Bfriend" peer support and mentoring service

Hobart (Baden)(03) 6222 7688 or 0438 346 122

email:baden@workingitout.org.au

Burnie (Meredith) (03) 6434 6474

or 0419 361 128

email:

meredith@workingitout.org.au

## Victoria

### CHAMELEON SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

While the group does not meet on a regular basis it is there to provide support and information to those requiring assistance with all matters.

PO Box 79

Altona, VIC.3018

Telephone message bank service (03) 9517 9416

email:

chameleonvicgirls@hotmail.com

robr@vicnet.net.au

### FTMPHALLOPLASTY

#### CONTACT

Michael is F2M who has had GRS and is willing to be contacted for information and support around Gender Reassignment Surgery for F2Ms in particular phalloplasty as performed by the Monash Medical Centre Gender Team.

Michael Mitchell. Tel: 0405 102 142

Tel: (03) 5975 8916 messagebank

pathwaysau@yahoo.com.au

### GENDERAFFIRMATION ANDLIBERATION

is a caring self-help group for transsexed people. It meet monthly to support people who are in the process of gender/sex affirmation (transitioning or transitioned).

PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Tel: (03) 9517 1237

http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gaall

### PROSTITUTESCOLLECTIVE OFVICTORIA

#### RhED in the sex industry

Are you interested in contributing to RED, the magazine produced by the RhED Program? If you are, please contact RhED on (03) 9534 8166 Mon-Fri 10am to 5pm

### SEAHORSE CLUB OF VICTORIA Inc.

A fully contituted self-help group financed by members subscriptions. Full or postal membership is open to transpersons who understand and respect the purpose of the club. Partners are also considered to be members. We have private monthly social meetings with speakers from relevant professions. Besides a monthly magazine and a library, we offer a contact mail service.

GPO Box 86, St Kilda, VIC, 3182

Tel: (03) 9513 8222

http://home.vicnet.net.au/~seahorse

seahorsevic@mbox.com.au

### (TGV) TRANSGENDER VICTORIA

Transgender Victoria is dedicated to achieving justice and equity for people experiencing gender identity issues, their partner, families and friends. We provide support on a range of issues including education, health, accommodation and facilitating assistance with workplace issues for those identifying as transgender, transsexual or cross-dresser.

PO Box 762, South Melbourne, VIC, 3205

Tel: (03) 9517 6613 (leave a message)

transgendervictoria@yahoo.com.au

www.vicnet.net.au/~victrans

## Western Australia

### CHAMELEONSOCIETY

Provides support to crossdressers, their relatives and friends.

PO Box 367,

Victoria Park WA 6979

Tel: 0418 908839 (8pm-10pm)

Email: chameleonswa@email.com

www.chameleonswa.com

### GENDER-Q

Meets at the Freedom Centre (1/ 471 William St, Northbridge WA) on the first Saturday of every month from 1pm-4pm. It is a free peer-based support session for young people (aged 25 and under) with diverse gender expression. Significant others welcome.

Freedom Centre, PO Box 1510, West Perth 6872, WA

Tel: 9228 0354

www.freedom.org.au

email: info@freedom.org.au

### INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

See International listings on p.40

### MAGENTA

Magenta offers support, education and information to transgender, male and female workers in the sex industry: PO Box 8054 PBC Northbridge, WA 6849

Tel: 08. 9328 1387

Fax: 08. 9227 9606

### TRANSCOMMUNITYWA

We provide peer support for, information resources about, and advocacy on behalf of, people who are transitioning, are planning to transition, or have transitioned. We also organise discreet social events at which significant others and supporters of our membership are welcome. Contact Michelle on mobile:

0402 236 380 or email shannlee@tpg.com.au, or Lisa on 0427 973 496, email lisasonau@yahoo.com.au

### TRANSWEST: THE TRANSGENDER ASSOCIATION OF WESTERNAUSTRALIA (INC)

Support, information, advocacy and social events for all kinds of transgender and transsexual people. Established 1997

PO Box 1944,

Subiaco, WA, 6904

Mob: 0407 194 282

hmpperth@cygnus.uwa.edu.au

www.geocities.com/transwest\_wa

### WELLBEING CENTRE OF WA

Service for people with blood-borne diseases such as Hep C and HIV/AIDS. This service is for people with issues such as health problems, relationships, medication and alternative therapies.

162 Aberdeen Street,

Northbridge

Tel: (08) 9228 2605

## National

### (ABN) AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

ABN is the national network of bisexual women, men and partners and bi- and bi-friendly groups and services. ABN produces a national news 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  
www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet  
IRCL (oz.org network) A.B.N.

### AGENDER AUSTRALIA

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and family. For information, please write or call.  
email:fnoble@powerup.com.au  
http://homepage.powerup.com.au/~fnoble

### AISSUPPORT 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  
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 providing places for both public and member-only access. There is also a large archive of related material available for education and research purposes.  
www.w-o-m-a-n.net

### FTMAUSTRALIA

Support, education and information for ftms, transmen and all affirming their masculine identity. TORQUE, resource manual and much more.  
Tel: (02)9571.9245 - Craig Andrews  
Email: info@ftmaustralia.org  
Web: www.ftmaustralia.org  
PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW, 2037

## International

### AGENDER NEW ZEALAND

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and family. For a detailed information pack, please write or call.  
PO Box 27-560  
Wellington New Zealand  
Tel: (64) 025.575.094  
janet@paradise.net.nz  
http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/janet/

### 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/

### 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

### 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

### 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 70060, Auckland, 1230, New Zealand  
Phone: (64) (09) 0800 TGHELP (0800.84.4357) (24 hrs)  
www.genderbridge.org  
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

### 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  
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

### 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 INTERSEX TRUST 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) 482-8791  
Fax: (64) 801-5690

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 resourcestgc@bigpond.com

## Contacts

**TRANSGENDER 33 YEARS**  
old looking for female 25-40 with a view to a long-term relationship. Sydney area preferred. Contact Sheena on 0404 367 787 or 0423 277 997

### BRISBANE TRANSSEXUAL

Attractive and very feminine. I am non-scene and am looking for a female or transsexual for a long-term relationship. I am financially secure and am paying off my lovely trendy home, in debt like all of us, I guess.

I have a good sense of humour and a great outlook on life. I enjoy being at home relaxing, whether it is relaxing in my tropical garden or watching television or playing games on the Internet. I seek that special person with whom I can share my life. I am located in Brisbane but if you happen to be somewhere else and would like to come here, then do write and tell me about yourself, if possible with a picture.

Box Holder, PO Box 2032,  
Windsor, QLD, 4030

**MODEL. I'D CALL MYSELF,**  
an exceptionally modern person, extremely attractive, with fashionable flair for sexy personalised signature label lingerie intimates, frocks, outerwear. Would like to meet nice she-males in transition, very socially oriented, view f/ship and outings.

CODE 012/04

## Contacts

**FRIENDSHIP TO LOVER**  
Single cross-dresser living in northwest NSW who loves to wear lingerie, make-up and be very sexy-looking. Age 40. Seeks non-judgemental gentleman age 40+ with interest in dancing and the outdoors. A very loving person to take away my loneliness. Love Chrissie

CODE 015/04

**GORGEOUS TRANSGENDER**  
is looking for a permanent lesbian relationship with a person between thirty and forty years old. Contact Sheena on (02) 9518 3949 or 0401 831 340

**MTF AGED 58, VERY LONELY**  
loving and caring, easy to get on with, happy go lucky, good sense of humour and a great personality. Non-smoker, social drinker, loves country music, rock and roll, sport and children.

Very social, with a good character. Looking for FTM or MTF 50 years old and upward for communication and social outings (Newcastle area).

I am not looking for a relationship or a commitment at this stage (friendship only). For further details contact TANYA on (02) 4948 1012

### FRIENDSHIP OR MORE

Forty-one year old, post most-op MTF, HIV+, seeking guy, girl, FTM, MTF 25-45 for penpal initially. Must be open minded, sincere and genuine with a good sense of humour. All replies will be answered.

CODE 002/05

## Contacts

**34-YEAR-OLD TRANSGENDER**  
MTF is looking for a 25-40-year-old woman with a view to a long-term lesbian relationship. Interested in playing and watching sport, cycling, running and gymnasium. Sydney area preferred.

Call 0423 277 997

**PRE-OP TRANNY CURRENTLY**  
in prison wants penpal to write and receive erotic fantasy letters. I'm slim, have feminine breasts and enjoy various fetish pursuits. I'm submissive and very playful. All letters will be answered.

Ms Dee Dougan, Locked Bag 7, Cooma, NSW, 2630

**CLOSET TV WOULD LIKE**  
to hear from other cross-dressers, ts, pre-, post- or non-op or biological or genetic females who like tv.

Jennifer La Rose,  
3343 Westerwald St,  
Fairview, Halifax, NOVA  
SCOTIA, B3N 2S6, CANADA

**To contact people  
here who have  
contact codes:**

1. Write your letter
2. Seal your letter in an envelope.
3. Write the contact code on the outside of the envelope.
4. Mail the envelope to: Community Contacts, PO Box 266, Petersham, NSW, 2049



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