

# *Polare*



Edition 69

October-December 2006



# 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.



**75 Morgan St  
PO Box 266  
Petersham  
NSW 2049**

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**Website:  
www.gendercentre.org.au**

**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.**

Front cover: Josie Emery, recently transitioned Australia Council Director of Literature photographed at the AWGIE Awards. See p.18 for her story.

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**THE FINE PRINT**

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**DEADLINE**

for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is the eighth of December 2006.

# Phinn's Report



Phinn (*I think*)

Hi Everyone,

This is Phinn Borg. Many of you will know me already; I've been working at the Gender Centre for the last nine years in various staff positions.

While Elizabeth is on leave, I will be Acting General Manager.

Over the next year there will be lots of new and exciting things happening at the Centre. There will be more health workshops targeting both F-M and M-F about their specific health needs. We are starting to work closely with the Livingstone Road Health Centre and will be having regular contributions to *Polare* from the nurses. If you have specific medical questions that we cannot answer, we will be happy to pass them on to Dr Lynne Wray or refer you to the nurses there.

**We invite you and your friends to the Annual Gender Centre Ball, 'Frolic 2006'. Everyone is welcome, so please join us for a three-course sit-down meal, entertainment and raffle prize. There will be prizes for best costumes. Tickets cost just \$25.**

It would be great to have everyone gather together at the end of the year, to celebrate and share their stories in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. This year we are holding the ball at a new venue, the Tempe Motor Boat Club, on the river bank at Tempe.

Ticket sales to date have been very slow. I suggest that you buy your tickets in the next two or three weeks. If we don't have support from the community then we will have to cancel the event. Tickets are not for sale at the door. We suggest you contact us closer to the date to see if the event is still going ahead.

I'd like to thank Sean Taylor who recently resigned and wish him the best of luck in his new job. The position of Case Manager has been advertised and we look forward to welcoming a new worker to the Centre.

Cheers,

*Phinn*



Sean Taylor

## NCHSR and The Gender Centre Inc

**National Centre in HIV Social  
Research (NCHSR) at the  
University of New South  
Wales and the Gender Centre**

**Sexual Health and Attitudes of  
Australian Prisoners Project  
(SHAAP)**

**Transgender Ex-Prisoner Sub-  
Project**

Researchers from the National Centre in HIV Social Research are seeking people who identify as transgender and have been in prison in NSW or Qld in the last ten years. We would like to interview individuals on their prison and sexual experiences and treatment as a transgender ex-prisoner. Interviews are up to two hour long and will take place in the Gender Centre at Petersham, Sydney. Individuals interviewed will receive \$30.00.

Please contact Phinn Borg at the Gender Centre to see whether you fit the criteria and to arrange a time for an interview. Ph. (02) 9569 2366



## Editorial - Katherine Cummings



In the nineteenth century children in European culture were considered to be property and often treated like animals, to be trained by punishment and reward. In the twentieth century matters improved but the age of responsibility, or majority, was usually taken to be twenty-one, and minors were deemed to be without

legal capacity, which rested with their parents, their guardians or the State. Following two world wars within a generation it was generally accepted that a person old enough to fight for his or her country was old enough to cast a vote for or against the people making life and death decisions. The age of majority came down to eighteen for most purposes and even younger for certain specific responsibilities such as marriage.

In matters of child abuse, too, children were beginning to be heard in their own defence, allowed to give evidence against abusing adults.

In some areas, however, children's wishes were, and are, still over-riden by the wishes and opinions of adults who exercise legal responsibility. One of the most vital of these areas was that of innate gender identification. A child wishing to be recognised in a gender role than that assigned at birth was usually ignored or even punished, depending on the degree of transphobia or simple ignorance being exercised by the adult mentor.

In this century we have seen some softening on the part of mentors and gatekeepers. The landmark case of the thirteen-year-old ward of the State (code-named Alex) permitted by the Family Court to delay puberty through hormonal therapy, was a tremendous breakthrough for those who are aware of their transgendered status long before they have the legal right to assert it. Alex will have the opportunity to live as a male until he reaches the age of majority and will then have the right to say whether or not he wishes to continue down the path to full gender affirmation.

If human beings matured sexually after the age of majority the problem would still exist but would be less important. It is the fact that we couple intellectual maturation with puberty that causes many of a developing transgender's problems. As long as puberty precedes legal

independence young transgenders will go through the agony of seeing their bodies develop at puberty in ways abhorrent to them. FTMs will commence menstruation, become more feminine in shape, develop breasts etc. MTFs will grow facial and body hair, have their voices break and see their somatic form become more masculine. With more acceptance of the phenomenon of transgender and a greater willingness to believe in a child's right to gender self-determination there could be more cases like Alex, where puberty is delayed by hormonal therapy until the individual is legally entitled to make a long-term decision on his/her gender.

On page 13 of this issue you will find a column by Jennifer Vanasco, dealing with the case of Nicole in the United States, a transgendered child whose right to self-determination is respected by her parents. They have allowed her to live in her innate gender role up to the age of five. Now she is the centre of controversy over whether she should be allowed to continue asserting her female gender role in the wider society of pre-school.

Of course she should! The arguments against this procedure are that Nicole will be subject to bullying, abuse and misunderstanding from her peers, from parents of other children in the school and even her teachers. But it is not Nicole, nor her parents, who would be culpable. It is the perpetrators of abuse and discrimination who should be subject to education (and social sanctions if necessary) to create the social process of acceptance.

It may well prove to be a difficult experience for Nicole and maybe she will break under the pressure, but until rights are asserted and defended they do not exist. Rights *de jure* must become rights *de facto* or they are not rights but empty words. I hope Nicole's supporters prove to be strong, steadfast and effective.

Few of us, in Australian society at least, die for our right to be recognised in our innate genders but many of us suffer, both physically and socially. Some of us live peacefully in our innate gender role and that is a blessing. But many of our brothers and sisters do not have that blessing, for a variety of reasons, ranging from the malice of families to physical, financial and legal constraints. These are the ones in our community who are deserving of our mental, moral and practical support.

Let us, then, honour the Alexes and Nicoles (and Jacks and Josephs) in our midst. They are the pioneers, the heroes and the martyrs, and ours is a community in dire need of heroes.

*Katherine* 

# Health Report by Dan McKinley

Hi, Everyone,

welcome to the October Health Report. For this issue we have obtained permission from Matt Kailey, FTM author, public speaker and gender workshop facilitator, to reprint his article "As Trans People, Do We Create Our Own Barriers To Health?". This thought-provoking article, relevant to all, will have you thinking about not only your health and well-being, but also what you need to consider in order to keep yourself safe.

Keeping this in mind, over the next few months I am planning some information sessions on HIV and Hep C. I hope that many of you will take the time to come to the Centre and brush up on your knowledge. mDates will be posted on the web at [www.gendercentre.org.au](http://www.gendercentre.org.au) or you can ring the Centre for further

information. These sessions will be run during a Wednesday night drop-in so a nice meal will be available for all.

For any who are interested I occasionally receive emails from students who are interested in either learning more or conducting research, regarding individuals with gender issues. Recently I received an email from Luke Malone, a post-graduate journalism student who is planning to write an article about FTM identified individuals. Please find the information below and contact him if you are interested!

In other news, many of you are aware that the Spring Barbecue was cancelled due to the appalling weather over that weekend. During this time the Centre had planned to run a Community Forum to gauge what you want from your Centre. So

next time you are at a drop-in or in the Centre, please fill out one of the anonymous Community Forum Questionnaires and pop it into the Outreach correspondence in-tray. This will give us a better indication of what the community wants when it comes to planning events for 2007. Wow, this year has been passing so quickly!

Please remember that the Centre has a confidential needle and syringe exchange. We also have condoms and tubes of lube available at no cost to you so next time you are here, please pick up the supplies you need.

Until next time, take care and be safe...

Dan

## FTM RESEARCH ARTICLE

I'm a post-graduate journalism student researching an article about the experiences of FTM transgendered individuals. I would like to interview an FTM male about his life and how the experience of transitioning has impacted on personal and sexual relationships, and how he feels transgendered people are viewed by the lesbian community. The overall tone of the article will be positive.

If you are interested, please email me at [luke.malone@gmail.com](mailto:luke.malone@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.  
Luke Malone

## Are You Young, Transgendered and Literate?

### Do You Want To Have Your Say?

#### *We Want You To Have Your Say!*

The Gender Centre Administration would like to see more material for *Polare* coming from the under twenty-five segment of our community. We are aware that the problems and experiences of transgenders who transition early are different from those of transgenders who transition late. We would also like to have these differences defined so that we can campaign to improve the legal, social and therapeutic conditions of those who transition early. Such people may not have had the advantage of making their way in the world in their assigned gender but may instead have encountered all the disadvantages of early transition. They may lack financial security, established reputation and social acceptance and we would like to hear your suggested strategies to ameliorate such situations.

You are encouraged to contribute material for the January-March 2007 issue. of *Polare*.

## FitX, the GLBT friendly gym

This community gym has been going since 1978, a little longer than Mardi Gras. In its current incarnation it is in the ACON building at 9 Commonwealth st, just off Oxford Street. We are open from Monday to Friday from 4.30-7.30 pm. Prices are \$6 casual or \$4 concession or \$50/\$30 for a ten-visit pass. Memberships are available and you can pay these off or volunteer and then you get the gym for free. Ingrid (me) is available for programs and advice Mondays and Wednesdays. We can organise other times or trans-specific training times if people think this would work better.

I think Erina pretty much summed it up in her interview last issue. FitX gym really is what ever you want it to be. It can be a stepping stone to feeling comfortable about going to the gym around the corner or a home away from home where you are bound to meet some like-minded people who want to get a bit fitter.



Below is a quickie workout that you can do at home to get you started. It is a program that should improve your posture and give you more energy. If you see results we may see you at FitX gym to take toning up, losing weight or building up to the next level.

Start by **1.** Marching on the spot, swinging your arms vigorously for one to two minutes, then change to

**2.** Tapping your heel as you raise both arms in front for another minute or two.

Now **3.** Push-ups on the back of the lounge, as many as you can. Keep your bum and stomach muscles tight to save your back.

Next **4.** Lean against a wall and squat down as far as you can. Hold the low position for ten to twenty seconds, then move up the wall and repeat.

Next **5.** Place your hand on the lounge seat and do as many dips as your arms can take.

Finally **6.** On to the floor and lie on your back (these are called dead bugs). Place your hands under your bum and alternately stretch one leg out straight then the other. The lower your legs are to the ground the harder you will find the exercise. Keep your back flat on the floor by pushing it into your hands.

Phone Ingrid on 0400 712 964

## For Sale

**A struggling university student trying to pay her way through uni and survive has the following goods for sale at bargain prices:**

1. Oil painting, "I Wish" by Juliet Jae. \$3000



2. Inflatable two-person boat (Fish Hunter) with oars, pump, two lifejackets. \$500



3. Canon camera EOS100 with 35-80 zoom lens, in carry case. \$500

4. Paddy Pallin large backpack, external aluminium frame (Australian made), large capacity. \$50

5. Berghaus Cyclops backpack, internal aluminium frame (British made) large capacity. \$40

6. Kit bag. Olive green zippered kit bag with masonite floor. \$10

**Call Sharon 0417 257 472**

**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**

**www.sharonwhiteagencies.com.au**

## TranzNation Survey - Please Participate!

The TranzNation Survey aims to examine the health and well-being of individuals in the transgender communities. It is being carried out by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) at LaTrobe University and Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria ([www.glhv.org.au](http://www.glhv.org.au)) which is part of ARCSHS.

Why complete the survey?

The survey is intended to provide information about the health and well-being of transgender people and will provide information about concerns they have regarding utilisation of health services and general well-being. It has been developed in collaboration with transgendered people.

How will my information be used?

The research generated will benefit transgenders by capturing a clearer understanding of the way health service provision affects transgendered individuals. It will also help guide the implementation of more relevant and appropriate services for transgenders. Your input has the potential to influence the scope of what the health sector has to offer transgenders and to modify the way health professionals interact with transgenders.

What does the survey cover?

The survey starts with a few questions about you and continues with a number of sections covering:

- General health
- Psychological well-being
- General health service utilisation
- Gender related medical and surgical contact: hormone treatment
- Gender related medical and surgical experiences
- Satisfaction with health services
- Stigma and discrimination

We hope to make this the biggest survey ever undertaken of transgender people so please give this information to your other contacts. If you have a website, please place the url for the survey on your website and encourage others to participate. You can obtain further information at [infor@glhv.org.au](mailto:infor@glhv.org.au).

The url for the survey is: [www.tranznation.org](http://www.tranznation.org)

### PhD Research on Australian Indigenous Gay, Lesbian and Transgender/ Sistagirl experiences.

Aude Chalon ([aud\\_mmsh@hotmail.com](mailto:aud_mmsh@hotmail.com))

is gathering life stories especially among Sistagirls. If anyone can help, please contact him direct on his email address.

### **For Sale: *Katherine's Diary; the story of a transsexual***

Long thought to be out of print, a box of *Katherine's Diary* has turned up. These copies were misprinted, with four photo captions transposed. The errors have been corrected with stick-on labels so that now they are identical to the rest of the edition, which sold out in 1993. You can buy your copy for A\$10.00 (US\$7.50) plus postage, from the author, Katherine Cummings, C/o Gender Centre, PO Box 266, Petersham, NSW, Australia, 2049. These are the last remaining copies unless or until Katherine publishes an updated version. No extra charge for a signed copy.

***Katherine's Diary* won the 1992 Australian Human Rights Award for Non-Fiction**

240pp text 16pp photographs, published by Mandarin Press, Melbourne, 1993





**Anybody forty years old or older wishing to join a social club for meeting, friendship or just communication 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)

## Gender Centre Library

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

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

The Library is now housed just outside the Community Space at the Gender Centre.

Books may be borrowed for 3 weeks

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

## Change of mailing list?

different Gender?  
different Address?  
different Name?  
no more *Polares* thanks?

Mail to:

Polare - The Editor  
The Gender Centre Inc  
PO Box 266  
Petersham  
NSW 2049

All my **OLD** details

All my **NEW** details




Do you have questions?

Would you like to talk to others in your situation?

Do you need help coping?

## GET-TOGETHERS for Parents, Partners, Friends and Family OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

will be held in response to demand. Phone 9569 2366 and ask for Sean to indicate your interest  
In order to allow parents, partners and friends to talk freely and discuss their feelings it is preferred that transgenders do not attend

Want to compare notes?



Notoriously paved with good intent. Now the following is conjecture, but it's conjecture that fits the evidence. It's the story of how a well-intentioned legislative change can go catastrophically, horribly wrong.

Originally, the situation regarding changing of gender was something like this [1]:

722. Full validity passports issued to transsexuals may show the sex of re-assignment subject to production by the applicant of medical evidence of re-assignment and on provision to the applicant of written advice that the sex indicated in the passport is for that purpose alone (Paragraph 729).

723. Each request for a passport showing the sex of re-assignment must be supported by a certificate from an appropriate Medical Practitioner that successful re-assignment surgery has been performed, evidence of change of name, and usage of that name.

725. Persons travelling overseas for the specific purpose of undergoing a sex reassignment operation may be issued with a passport showing the intended sex on condition that appropriate medical evidence supporting the application is provided. Such a passport will have limited validity for one year and will only be replaced with a full validity passport stating the changed gender on presentation of medical evidence confirming that the operation was performed successfully. People who were "transgendered" - that is, fulltime crossdressers, pre-operative transsexuals, and non-operative transsexuals were not considered.

Pre-ops could get a temporary passport in the correct gender to have their surgery, and of course, when post-operative, would get a passport showing their new gender, as a matter of course, and regardless of their marital status or where they were born. This caused considerable hardship in a number of cases. Women who had medical conditions such as Diabetes or Heart conditions that prevented surgery, yet who had lived in a female identity for years or decades, found that they had to apply as males - and that they had to find a guarantor who had known them for a long time and would attest to their masculinity. This was in many cases impossible. Worse, when given an M type passport and presenting as F, they faced terrible difficulties at checkpoints and border crossings. They could be refused entry, or given invasive searches by males, even put into a male holding facility pending deportation, along with drug pushers, criminals, and the insane. The results were sometimes... unfortunate. It would have been kinder just to give them a lethal injection. Just as fatal, but with less suffering.

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In the Re Kevin decision, Justice Chisholm said in a judgement strongly affirmed by the Full Court on Appeal [2]: 'I agree with Ms Wallbank that in the present context the word "man" should be given its ordinary contemporary meaning. In determining that meaning, it is relevant to have regard to many things that were the subject of evidence and submissions. They include



the context of the legislation, the body of case law on the meaning of "man" and similar words, the purpose of the legislation, and the current legal, social and medical environment. These matters are considered in the course of the judgment. I believe that this approach is in accordance with common sense, principles of statutory interpretation, and with all or virtually all of the authorities in which the issue of sexual identity has arisen. As Professor Gooren and a colleague put it: "There should be no escape for medical and legal authorities that these definitions ought to be corrected and updated when new information becomes available, particularly when our outdated definitions bring suffering to some of our fellow human beings".'

So the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission made a submission [3], which read, in part:

The gender identity of transsexuals is recognised by the Federal Government to a certain extent in relation to passports. A person that has undergone gender reassignment surgery may obtain a new passport in their reassigned sex.

A person intending to travel overseas for sexual reassignment surgery may obtain a temporary passport in their new sex and once the surgery has been completed they will be eligible to apply for a full ten year passport in their new sex. However, transgender people that have not undergone reassignment surgery are not able to have their identified gender recorded on their passport. A new passport does not mean that the Federal Government recognises transsexual gender identity in any other capacity and this document cannot be used as proof of gender identity for other purposes such as marriage.

It is recommended that the Federal Government review the status of transgender people in relation to the recording of gender identity on passports. Current practices allow

for transgender people that have undergone gender reassignment surgery or are intending to undergo surgery to change the sex that is recorded on their passport.

This practice ignores the gender identity of many transgender people that are unable to have gender reassignment surgery for medical or financial reasons and those that have no desire to have such surgery and live comfortably in their identified gender. It is recommended that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Manual of Australian Passports Issue is reviewed to reflect the concerns of the transgender community to have their identified gender recognised on official documents.

Well, they didn't go quite that far. Instead, someone had the Bright Idea that a document of limited validity, good for five years (later changed to three) not ten, and not considered adequate as a passport by many countries, but with the great virtue that it made no statement about the holder's identity, could be used.

Such a document existed, the Document of Identity, or DOI. In response to a passport application by someone who was evidentially transgendered and pre-operative, A DOI would be offered as an alternative to an arguably useless M type (for someone identifying as female) passport. No statement would be made about the holder's gender as far as the Government was concerned, and no admission that the holder was "really" of a gender other than the one they identified as would be required. It had its disadvantages.

### **Documents of Identity and transgender people**

1 Applicants who are living in the character of a member of the opposite gender may apply for the issue of a Document of Identity.. Personal details on a Document of Identity do not include gender. Because of the possible disadvantages in using a Document of Identity for travel, the applicant should be advised in writing that:

\* Some countries do not regard a Document of Identity as a valid travel document;

\* Customs/immigration authorities in some countries may view the possession of a Document of Identity in lieu of a passport with suspicion and consequently delay or harass the bearer at entry points; and

\* Should Customs/immigration officers decide to conduct a body search there is a very real risk of embarrassment to the bearer (this may also occur to a pre-operative person issued with a limited validity passport).

Overall though, it was a humane compromise: not quite as good as a full passport, but often good enough, and issue of it avoided all sorts of legal complexities and a possible

test case about gender that the Government didn't want. The *Re Kevin* decision hadn't gone their way, and who knows what the Courts may find?

A Transgendered applicant would be faced with the question of whether they wanted to fight for years, and have a possibly financially devastating loss and lose existing rights, or accept the compromise. By applying for a passport in an F identity, they asserted their right to be considered that, and the Government made no reply either way - just offered this alternative.

And the option of a 12-month validity F passport was still there for SRS, should they wish to travel for the operation to a country where a DOI was inadequate. Not perfect, but the hardship caused would be small. Not as good as the UK policy, of issuing a correctly gendered passport on evidence of living permanently in the new gender, but good enough. And so it came to pass that the Explanatory Notes to the Australian Passports Determination 2005 [4] said, in part :

60. Depending on the circumstances, rather than refuse to issue a passport, the Minister (or a delegate of the Minister) may decide to issue a passport but reduce the validity period, for example, to meet the immediate travel needs of the applicant. In other circumstances, the Minister (or a delegate) may refuse to issue a passport but issue a document of identity to meet the immediate travel needs of the applicant, as noted below (section 6.3).

### **Section 6.3 – Documents of identity**

· A document of identity is normally issued to Australian citizens in relation to whom the Minister (or a delegate of the Minister) considers it is either unnecessary or undesirable to issue a passport (paragraph 6.3(1)(a)).

87. An important example of when a document of identity may be issued when it is unnecessary or undesirable to issue a passport is when a person has lost or had stolen two or more passports and the Minister (or a delegate of the Minister) has decided to refuse to issue another passport. The person may be issued with a document of identity for international travel for a particular purpose. This enables the Government to balance the competing policy priorities in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1980 ATS 23, Article 12) ensuring freedom of movement for a person while enabling the Minister (or a delegate) to act where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person is allowing others to use the passports for identity fraud or other criminal activity, or that the applicant is simply not adequately protecting his or her passport.



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...89. Other examples include: Australian citizens travelling to or from Norfolk Island; and Australian citizens who request a document of identity instead of a passport; and Australian citizens who are transgender, that is are living in the identity of a member of the opposite sex; and Australian citizens being repatriated or deported to Australia or extradited; and Australian citizens in circumstances when an identity document is required to permit travel to a country in which there is an Australian embassy, high commission or consulate to obtain a passport; and Australian citizens to travel until the Minister (or a delegate of the Minister) is satisfied the person meets all the requirements (such as citizenship, no refusal requests, or full consent of all persons with parental responsibility for a child); and Australian citizens whose travel the Minister believes should be restricted.

The intent was not to require the transgendered person to apply for a DOI - for then they would be "Australian citizens who request a document of identity instead of a passport". No, by section 60, a DOI would be issued to meet immediate travel needs, in response to a passport request. And there there was a problem already. Instead of a full 3-year unrestricted DOI, this would be only to "meet immediate travel needs".

Arguably, the intent was to have the situation similar to that of a DOI for travel to Norfolk island, unrestricted except for the three-year validity, and the restriction that many countries didn't accept a DOI as adequate.

Worse, the notes went on to say

92. Validity periods are expressed as maximums and may be reduced depending on the circumstances of the applicant. In most cases, a document of identity is issued for a short-term or single journey. For example, for a document of identity issued to a citizen of another Commonwealth country, a maximum validity period of three months is normally sufficient.

Documents of identity for travel to and from Norfolk Island have a validity of three years. No exception for the Transgendered. Normally they would be issued a DOI "for a short-term or single journey."

Worst still (I'll be using that phrase a lot in this article), in VAK and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade [2002] AATA 588 (11 July 2002) [5] it was held by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal that:

21. VAK has stated that he requires an Australian passport as he needs to attend to his business interests in Australia. He is the sole director of a company, which is

registered in Australia and is the trustee of a property trust. The property trust owns and manages a number of investment properties in Australia. VAK and his children are the beneficiaries of that trust. VAK submitted that, in order to fulfil his duties as director, he needs to travel regularly to Australia to attend to matters associated with the investment properties.

VAK also submitted that his failure to be able to attend to the proper management of the Trust could have a considerable detrimental effect on the benefits that his children could obtain under the trust. 36. Given that a document of identity is more circumscribed than a passport and is only given to an Australian citizen, who does not also possess the nationality of a Commonwealth country, in circumstances in which the issue of a passport would be unnecessary or undesirable, it would follow that it should, as a general proposition, only be given in circumscribed circumstances. It should not be issued in terms that would permit freedom of travel that equates with a passport even if for a shorter period of time.

37. On the material that I have been given, I am not satisfied that VAK should be given a document of identity permitting him any more latitude than one-way trip to Australia. His wish that he be able to bring his children to Australia and his wish to be in Australia to carry out functions as the sole director of a company do not lead me to a different conclusion. He may return to Australia with the document of identity given to him. Having done so, he may pursue his personal interests in Australia. Given that there is an outstanding warrant against him, it would be inappropriate to give him a document of identity that permitted him the freedom to come and go as he likes.

That freedom will be restored to him in the form of a passport when he has dealt with the warrant. It follows that I consider that the decision of the authorised officer to issue a document of identity for a one-way trip to Australia was correct.

The standard of "immediate need" is set very high. To answer an arrest warrant meets the requirement, to conduct business that would benefit one's children is not.

I must assume this to be the case, as the APO did not consider my needing to travel Internationally in order to complete my PhD a sufficiently compelling reason, despite written testimony from my PhD supervisor.

A Transgender person, not having the option to address an arrest warrant, but merely by being what they are, may face considerable difficulty getting a DOI under any circumstances. To get necessary surgery was deemed a reasonable excuse in my case, but to enable me to



complete my PhD was not. To enable a Transgendered person merely to have a holiday would seem even less likely to qualify.

Thus Transgendered people are put on a par with criminals or suspects who have been refused passports, those with dodgy documentation, those who are being extradited or deported, those suspected of selling their passports, or suspected terrorists: "Australian citizens whose travel the Minister believes should be restricted.". They are to be kept on a tight leash, their travel restricted despite the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Why? One can assume because it "enables the Government to balance the competing policy priorities", in which case one has to wonder what the policy on transgendered people is. Or one can assume that this is one gigantic train-wreck of unintended consequences to legislation of good intent.

Worse still (told you I'd be using that phrase a lot), the requirements to be issued a full passport after surgery are now more stringent. Merely having surgery is not enough.

A full validity passport in the new gender may be issued to a transgender person who has undergone gender affirmation surgery subject to the applicant meeting all relevant passport application requirements including:

\* For applicants born in Australia – a birth certificate from their state/territory RBDM showing the gender of reassignment;

\* For applicants born overseas and resident in Victoria for at least twelve months – a 'Recognised Details' certificate from the Victorian RBDM acknowledging their name and sex; or

\* For other applicants born overseas – medical certificates from two registered medical practitioners (who must be contacted to confirm authenticity of the certificate) verifying that the applicant has undergone gender affirmation surgery....

People travelling overseas for the specific purpose of gender affirmation surgery may be issued with a limited validity passport with maximum validity of twelve months showing the intended gender, on condition that certificates supporting the application from two registered medical practitioners (who must be contacted to confirm authenticity of the certificate) are provided stating that gender affirmation surgery is scheduled to take place in {country} on {date}.

Proof of travel could be requested if there are any doubts.

The applicant must meet all the usual passport application requirements (i.e. identity, citizenship and entitlement) first.

The passport will have limited validity for one year. At the time of issuing the limited validity document, the applicant must also be provided with a copy of Letter (XX). The applicant can apply for a gratis full validity passport in their new gender before the limited validity passport expires.

Applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the section above.

Thus we have the absurdity that the Minister can only determine a Transgender person's Identity if they're unmarried (and thus able to get their birth certificates changed). Unless they were born overseas. And not resident in Victoria for twelve months.

There are confirmed cases of women getting an F type passport for their surgery - then being denied a replacement because they were unable to get their Birth certificates changed.

Worse still (last time, I promise), no less a person than the Acting Executive Director of the Australian Passport office has stated categorically, and in writing, that a person born overseas must not only be able to prove surgery, but "Under the Marriage Act, we can't have married people changing their gender" and thus must divorce. This despite him being in possession of a letter from the Attorney General stating exactly the opposite.

And thus by these steps have we entered the place on whose gate is written "Abandon Hope, All Ye Who Enter Here".

[1] MAPI circa 2000 <http://www.tgfolk.net/sites/gt/lg/mapi.html>

[2] Re Kevin in perspective, Deakin Law Review : <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/DeakinLRev/2004/22.html#Heading437>

[3] HREOC Submission to DFAT 2003 : <http://www.hreoc.gov.au/samesex/submissions/307d.doc>

[4] <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/framelodgmentattachments/5681A7871644AF20CA25702200251B7F>

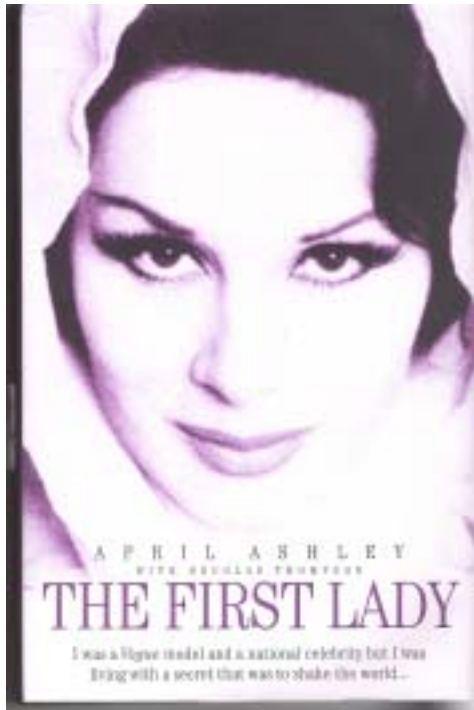
[5] <http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/disp.pl/au/cases/cth/aat/2002/588.html?query=passport>

oo0oo

**Book review: *The First Lady* by April Ashley with Douglas Thompson (autobiography) John Blake Press, UK 2006**

**ISBN 1844542319**

April Ashley was one of the world's most beautiful women of the 20th century. She was also one the most notorious. Born George Jamieson, the son of a British Liverpoolian sailor, she grew up to work in probably the most famous transsexual revue nightclub, Le Carroussel in Paris, in the 1950s and early 1960s. At twenty-five she flew to Dr Burou's clinic in Casablanca to have her sex-change operation, as she called it, then to go on to become a champagne-drinking, jet-setting *Vogue* model and marry into the British aristocracy.



In this, her second autobiography, she tells all: names, places, dates and particularly her litany of sexual conquests. If only people had known she was keeping a diary all those years. John Lennon fondly referred to her as the "The F u c k i n g Duchess", and P a u l

McCartney allegedly used a few other less endearing terms when she refused to sleep with him. The film stars Omar Sherif and Peter O'Tool shared her between their beds in Spain apparently on the same night.

Michael Hutchence, the Australian rock star, was also among her lovers, she says. Amanda Lear, the multi-millionaire European pop star, entertainer and ex-mistress of the artist Salvador Dali, has always denied she was transsexual, but April's book shows a picture of them eating spaghetti together as touring members of the troupe from Le Carroussel.

April became most famous during her divorce from her aristocratic husband when the court decreed she was not actually female because she was transsexual, annulling

their marriage and leaving her penniless.

The humiliation and fame practically destroyed her, eventually costing her her health, and she lived for some years in abject poverty and seclusion.

This landmark decision by Judge Ormrod in England trapped a whole generation of transsexuals into the legal black hole of not being able to get their sex recognised and this situation lasted more than thirty-five years until the 2004 British Gender Recognition Bill.

This book, however, is not just a kiss and tell, it is a historical document of the life of someone who survived a relentless total onslaught by the gutter press. She tells how at the height of her fame, being internationally recognised, she was often assaulted in the street by perfect strangers who felt they had a right to strike what they perceived to be the Devil's spawn. The problem was, when you looked like April everyone knew your face and even in her 70s she is still instantly recognisable.

She was and is undoubtedly an inspiration for a whole generation of transsexual people who chose life over suicide because they learnt about "April Ashley". She has refused to go down with the ship, no matter how hard she was kicked overboard or was pushed violently into the sea of life. April will be remembered as one of our gender heroines who was a torchbearer for those who came after her. Oh, and by the way - the book really is a riveting and excellent read.



**Tracie O'Keefe**



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# Who Gets To Decide A Child's Gender?

Issue Sixty-Nine

At what age are hormone treatments an option? by Jennifer Vanasco

Nicole, five, was born Nicholas. She wears ponytails and pink flip-flops, she loves dresses and dolls. A story, written by Julia Reischel for the *New Times Broward-Palm Beach*, quotes Nicole's mother, Lauren Anderson:

"As a toddler, she wouldn't let me snap her onesies together because she wanted to wear a 'dress' like her sister," she said.



The Andersons love their child and they want to let Nicole express herself. At first, they tried telling Nicole that she could be a girl at home but needed to be "neutral" in public. After a while, though, they gave up and friends and acquaintances note that the introverted Nicholas has become the shining personality of Nicole.

But now the Andersons are faced with bringing Nicole into a bigger, harsher world: She starts public school in the fall. Maybe as a girl. Maybe as a boy.

The school system has not yet told the Andersons what gender they will assign to Nicole when the child enters a classroom for the first time.

Therein lies the problem: that the school has the power to decide. Americans battle constantly over how we as individuals and communities raise our children. We struggle over what we teach them in textbooks, what methods to teach, using single-sex classrooms or experiential learning.

Nicole, it seems to me, is just the sort of flashpoint child that our society roils itself over. Reischel's report quotes some experts and activists as saying that the Andersons should continue to be supportive of Nicole's feelings about her gender; and others (including some trans activists) who think that they should not be.

I doubt it will be long before the story of Nicole will wind up on talk radio and appear as an example in op-eds (like this one) about what is right or wrong with the United States. Nicole's situation is tricky because gender identity is not just about clothes or even just about mental identity and emotional affiliation. It's also about making a difficult medical decision for a child who has not yet fully developed emotionally.

Reischel notes that many children who express feelings of discomfort with their own gender grow up to be gay, not transgendered. Yet at some point in the not-so-distant

future, the child and the parents will need to decide whether Nicole should take hormones to thwart masculine development and promote feminisation during puberty. The hormones can later be stopped or started, but that decision will have a significant impact on Nicole's life.

Whether Nicholas is a gay man (or a straight and effeminate one) or Nicole is transgender is something that the child will need to decide for his/herself in his/her own time.

But the prospect of hormone treatments (and the possibility of transitioning surgery) makes this a trickier issue than just being gay. There are people — especially those with supportive families — who bounce in and out of gayness without lasting consequences.

There are Lesbians Until Graduation and men who are married but still pick up sex with other men in dark clubs or darker alleys.

There are girls with strong crushes on other girls who grow up to be happy married women with rich female friendships, and there are girls who chase boys — and even marry them — who later blossom into lesbian-hood in their 30s, 40s and later.

**"Children like Nicole/Nicholas are flashpoints but they are not the problem. Society is the problem."** And then there are children like Nicholas/Nicole who may be transgender — who seem to be transgender — but who, even so, are children, with years of self-exploration to come. They should not have to make lasting choices about their identities now.

Not yet. Not at five. For that matter, not at thirteen or seventeen. Life is long, and we keep discovering as we go.

Children like Nichole/Nicholas are flashpoints, but they are not the problem. Society is the problem. Schools that decide on a gender are the problem.

Lauren Anderson said, "I don't want to take that child's soul and squash it. The school doesn't have a choice."

She's right. It shouldn't be the school's choice to make. We need to have room in our society — in our schools, our governments, our social institutions — for fluidity of every sort.

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**Copyright Jennifer Vanasco 2006. Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached via e-mail at [jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com).**

[ See also the editorial comment on Page three. ]



If you are a pre-op or non-op transmale, how many times do you tell your treatment providers that you have a bagina? Do you talk openly about using testosterone and inform your providers about where you get it, how you administer it, and the physical effects it can have on your body? Do you discuss how and with whom you have sex? Are your providers informed enough to ask questions about needle and vial sharing, black market hormones and safer sex for someone with your body type?

If you are a pre-op or non-op transfemale, substitute penis for vagina and estrogen for testosterone and read the above questions again, then think about your answers. Are we setting up our own barriers to proper HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment as well as other necessary medical care?

Certainly there are things that are nobody's business and, as trans people, we don't need to discuss every personal issue with everyone we talk to. But if we're not informing our health care and service providers about our bodies and what we do with them, we're creating a situation that could prevent us from getting adequate information about our bodies and what we do with them, we're creating a situation that could prevent us from getting adequate information about, and treatment for, various health related conditions. Yes, we want our providers to be stay healthy educated on trans issues, and yes, we are tired of doing some of that education, but we can't expect more from our health-care and service providers than we are willing to give ourselves. What kinds of things should we as trans people be aware of when thinking about protecting ourselves and others from the spread of HIV/AIDS?

First, let's look at hormones. The majority of transmen and many transwomen are using needles to administer testosterone and estrogen. Twenty cents may seem like a small price to pay for a sterile, fresh needle, but when you don't have it, there isn't much difference between twenty cents and twenty dollars --- hence needle sharing occurs, which we all know can be a dangerous practice. If you are sharing needles, talk to your provider about getting a bleach kit, learn the correct way to use it, and use it every time you share a needle. Even if you're not sharing needles, if you are sharing a vial, make sure you don't stick a used needle back into the vial for any reason.

In order to protect your health, make sure you know where your hormones are coming from and who is administering them to you, if you aren't doing it yourself.

Non-reputable people who are offering hormone shots are generally not concerned about how many times they use a needle or how many used needles might have been reinserted into a vial.

And we all know that some shots are gushers. If you are HIV positive, it's important to protect others who might be giving you a shot. Health care providers generally use protection, such as gloves, but partners, friends, or acquaintances who are helping you might not think about it. A few minor precautions can protect you and those around you when you're taking hormones by injection.

And when you're thinking about sex (don't lie, you are), think about the needs of your transsexual body. If you have a vagina and are using it, you need to be aware of the extra risk of tissue tears for certain vaginas. The use of testosterone can cause the vagina to become dryer, shorter and less flexible, thus making it more vulnerable to tearing, which can create an entry point for HIV or, if you're positive, a way for you to transmit the virus. Surgically constructed vaginas don't self-lubricate, also making them more prone to tearing. So whatever you're packing, pack some extra lube.

If you are factory equipped with a penis and you tuck, the skin of your dick can sometimes become chafed and even bleed, which provides an entry point for HIV or a way for the virus to be transmitted if you're positive. If you have a surgically constructed dick, be aware of infections that can cause blood to accumulate or pus to form.

In reality, any of these risks can be significantly lessened with the use of protection --- a male or female condom. But some of us aren't using them. Why? There are a variety of reasons, none of which really stands up under scrutiny.

**Internalised transphobia:** "I don't deserve to stay healthy" or "I'm basically worthless, so who cares if I get sick and maybe die." This one is tough to deal with. If you're feeling worthless, if you're feeling self-hatred. If you don't think your life is worth saving, then professional help is definitely warranted. Ask your health care provider for a therapist recommendation, or call your local gender centre or GLBT services centre.

More internalised transphobia: "I finally found someone who doesn't care that I'm trans. I'm not going to screw this up by insisting on using a condom." This also stems from self-hatred --- as if you are darn lucky that anyone



wants to have sex with you. But how lucky could you be if your potential sex-partner doesn't care about your sex or his/her own.

**Validation as a gay man:** I have heard some gay transmen say that becoming infected with HIV will validate their gay male identity. It will also necessitate coming out twice to potential partners --- as a transman and as an HIV-positive man. And because both testosterone and HIV medications (and most medications) are processed through the liver, if the liver is damaged, it can come down to a choice --- HIV meds or hormones. Do you really want to make that choice?

**Problems with genitalia:** In some cases, this is just more self-hatred, and in others it simply goes along with being trans, but in either case, if it is difficult for you to acknowledge your genitals, you might also find it difficult to look at or touch them in order to protect yourself and others. Applying a male or female condom makes you more conscious of genitalia that you might want to forget. This is a tough one, and if it is preventing you from using protection you may want to consult with a therapist or another provider.

**Uneducated/untrained providers:** Your provider won't know you're injecting hormones unless you reveal it. Your provider won't know you don't have a dick/vagina unless you tell him or her. If you have not come out as trans, and your provider is talking to you about body parts you don't have or discussing sexuality in a way that doesn't apply to you, the only way you can correct it is to be honest about who you are and what your needs are. Many HIV/AIDS centres are trans friendly and will give you the opportunity to identify yourself on an intake sheet or in an initial interview. But the majority of health care providers still don't do this. It's up to all of us to take responsibility for our own health and to make our providers aware of our needs. When we are honest, we are more likely to get the advice and the care that can keep us, and our sexual partners, healthy.

**This article originally appeared in *Resolute!*, the PWA Coalition journal.**

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### The WA Transgender, Transsexual and Intersex Health and Well-Being Survey

is a short survey of the health related practices of transgender, transsexual and intersex people in Western Australia. It is being conducted from October to December 2006 through a range of events, community groups and networks. The study will provide valuable information on how and where to reorient current health promotion services and programs provided by mainstream organisations and organisations specifically targeting transgender, transsexual and intersex people.

The survey can be found at:

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

## Change Management by Josie Emery

“I don’t see what the problem is,” Alan said. “You’ve done organisational change management. You know the routine. Identify key stake-holders. Bring them aboard early and make them part of the change process and show them how this change represents a win-win situation for everyone. Make them part of the change story.”

He sat back and looked at me. I stared at him. My mind was doing two things simultaneously. One was saying, “I’ve just told him I’ve lived a shameful lie all my life as a deeply closeted cross-dresser. I’ve told him I cannot go on any more and will have to live fulltime as a woman. And he acts like it’s not a problem – when all my life this has been the one revelation of which I was too ashamed to ever tell anyone.”

The other was saying, “Bloody hell! He’s right! I’ve never seen it put so clearly. But that means I have to let everyone at work know as soon as possible, plus my key clients, Board and Council – long before there’s any recognisable changes in myself or my presentation.”

I studied him closely. He was clearly thinking through the strategy. My news had not shattered his world or mine. He was not angry for me having said nothing in those moments when he was revealing something of himself to me. As far as I could see we were still friends and work-related colleagues.

To have reached this point had taken over fifty years of my life and two marriages. It had meant many years afraid to open the door and go outside – which had impacted significantly on career and income. For many years I’d had the ability to sit alone in a room wearing women’s clothes and hammering out stories that could be sold for reasonable sums of money. But in the last decade there’d only been one story I needed to tell – the one I was too afraid and ashamed to tell. It was this. *I was born with male appearance and appendages but my mind, my soul and heart said all along that I was female.*

.....

I was four years old. My name was ‘John’. I was my parents’ first son. It was soon after they’d built the farmhouse on the sandy hill beside the highway. My brother and I shared a room: “the boys’ room”. Its window faced down the highway and at night the oncoming lights would flicker around the walls as the sound of the passing trucks built and built, then downshifted for the hill, and then fell away, deeper and deeper, quieter and quieter until the truck rounded the far end of the long salt-pan and its roar would gust back to me as I lay there awake.

I was trying to assimilate new and secret knowledge. There was a girl inside me. She seemed like a princess sitting there looking back at me when I turned my gaze inward. We would stare at each other silently, gravely – as children do when they meet for the first time. She was me. So; who was I?

I prayed to God, “Father, please make me into a girl. Please. Please make me into a girl.” I cried with a strange need that no one recognised.

*“John is a sensitive child. He’s a bright kid but has too much imagination. It gets him so excited he can’t sleep.”*

It wasn’t imagination; it was fear would keep me awake for those fifty plus years. Six months before the conversation with Alan I had booked six sessions with a counsellor because of “work-related stress”. My father had just died. I was falling apart in a three-day-a-week job and with a partner who could no longer handle my constant shifts between masculine and feminine presentation. I was addicted to valium and sleeping pills.

Prior to seeing this woman there’d been four major attempts at therapy. In the first I was set the question: “*Why are you afraid to be a man?*” In the second I was told: “*Your cross-dressing is an epiphenomenon of something deeper. When we have sorted that out it will disappear.*” The third was super-Freud: “*Your cross-dressing is the way you shield from yourself the primal scene of having witnessed your parents having sex.*” The fourth pointed out to me that I had no sense of self. I derived that sense from whoever my partner was. He made me see, starkly and clearly, that the woman I loved so dearly and desperately was the woman I wanted to be.

The new therapist was not a psychiatrist but a social worker. She put me in a room with a sand-tray and a heap of dolls and told me: “*Play!*”. I played. I was soon creating that “primal scene”. After three times playing I realised that whenever I reached for a doll to represent myself it was always a girl doll. Whenever I drew a representation of myself it was that four-year old’s vision. There, at my core, was a girl.

That was the answer to my lack of a sense of self. That was the answer to why I was afraid to be a man. Because I wasn’t. The deeper issue I had resolved that was now curing my cross-dressing was to see that my core identity was female – and now I had no desire to cross-dress as a man any more. I wanted to live in the full glory of my true gender: woman.

How would I do it? That was the question. The terror of admitting to myself that I was a woman was now replaced by the overwhelming anxiety of how someone as seemingly masculine and culturally enmeshed as a man could ever possibly break free. Height, weight, beard, hairline, voice, body shape, etc & etc. The prospect was overwhelming.

In the months preceding my realisation I had struggled to hold life together by focusing – as a recovering alcoholic might – on getting through one hour at a time, one day at a time, one night, one week. I had learnt a valuable lesson about focus and about eliminating the crippling fear that imagination can create. I brought that knowledge into play and I also found pictures my mind could hold that would keep me going.

I remembered the time I had built a boat.

How does a non-shipwright build a boat? By having a plan, by having materials, by having expert advice, and by then getting up each morning and going into the shed and fastening one piece of wood to the next.

Another picture from the extreme sports of my past. Rock-climbing. One hand in front of the other. Eyes focused on the crack, the crevice. Never looking down. Mind fully-focused on the immediate moment. Onward and upward.

One step at a time was how I needed to approach this momentous change to my life.

But helpers were what I needed most and they seemed in short supply. I became aware that public advocates of gender change often had political agendas to push that did not match my needs, my ideology or my lifestyle. I sought my help where I felt comfortable: amongst people who philosophically were attuned to my needs. Those people were management consultants like my friend Alan.

There had been a decade when I did a lot of change management and leadership development work. You can only do that stuff if you believe deeply that real change is possible. Your assessment of the difficulties ahead for the participants must be sober, logical and clear.

But you can only effect that change if you are prepared to trust your creativity and your instincts. You must be comfortable working with the logical mind and the creative mind simultaneously, and with taking big risks.

I struck up a conversation with a fellow traveller on a plane. She was a leadership coach called Lisa, from New York. I told her I had just taken a new, high profile, high-

powered job that was taking me way out of my comfort-zone. I knew she would pitch her services.

Taking a new job was a result of confronting my urgent inner need. The place I had worked part-time had an embedded misogynistic culture. I was no longer comfortable there. The job I won was fulltime with a decent salary and a gender-diverse supportive culture. And, in a sense, it was the job towards which I had been working all my life. Things were paying off: relationships built, expertise gathered along the way. Above all: income.

For decades one of the ways I'd kept myself from making this change was to see it as financially impossible. Recently I'd seen that belief worked both ways. I kept myself broke in order to have a reason not to make the change.

But now I'd been hired as a man to be the public face of my sector. The organisation was constantly under media scrutiny. I was in a leadership position and not working under a clearly recognisable set of award conditions: the job was performance-based.

I could lose the job if I did not meet outcomes requirements. Fifty-hour weeks meant the pressure on my hidden life was enormous. I knew I could not maintain my work-level and standard and flip back and forth: man/woman, man/woman.

Lisa said she could help me raise my performance levels to ensure I could do the job well.

“Lisa,” I said. “To do this probably means that I will have to explore a lot of the deepest things within me?”

She smiled and nodded. “That’s so right,” she said. “You will really have to dig deep.” She was like me. She believed in inner searching and inner change. Well, her belief had yet to be tested.

“And I’ll have to trust you with my inner stuff?” I continued, watching her starry eyes.

She nodded. She could see my rising anxiety. I concentrated on maintaining my calm, maintaining eye contact, keeping the tremor from my voice.

“Lisa,” I said. “There’s something I have to tell you if we are to work together...”

She smiled encouragingly. She had no idea what was coming.

“Lisa,” I said. “Inside, I am really a woman...”

Her eyes went wide. Her jaw hit the table. I plunged on. It was like swimming in the heart of winter. It was the pacing back and forth on the edge of the pool that was



## Issue Sixty-Nine

hard. Once you were in the water you just kept going.

“I was four years old when I saw my female self...”

Five minutes later she spoke.

“Well,” she said. “That’s the first time I’ve heard that said by a man in a tweed jacket!”

I knew two things. One: I could work with her. Two: I could no longer wear that tweed Armani jacket.

We drew up a two-column plan. Column one listed what I wanted to achieve at work. Column two listed what I wanted to achieve as a transitioning transsexual woman

\*\*\*\*\*

For most of my life had fought a hard campaign of denial. I

retreated step by grudging step: like the diggers on the Kokoda Track. OK. I liked to wear women’s clothes because it felt good. OK. I NEEDED to wear women’s clothes to feel good. OK. I had a large inner sense of being feminine that had to be assuaged. OK. I was a transvestite and there’s nothing wrong with that. OK. I needed to live part-time as a woman, but I was still a man.

How I scorned those unfortunate fools who had come to believe that they really were women. They were dupes in the culture wars. They lacked the imagination to sustain this as a form of gender-play. Why would anyone knowingly and willingly give up all the rewards our culture heaps on men to become a woman? Even worse: to become an older woman? The bottom of the social heap. To live as neither one thing nor the other. Such people were to be pitied.

But step-by-step I had been stripping away the lies I told myself—and told those nearest and dearest to me. And now, with Lisa, I was finally able to say it.

“Lisa, I am a transitioning transsexual woman.”

That left only my mother to tell. That was the conversation I had needed to have all my life. As Lisa brought me to see, it was the conversation behind every other conversation with every other person that I had. “Mum,

what will you think when I tell you that I really am a girl? Will you still love me?” The longer I delayed it, the worse my life became. The worse became everyday communications.

\*\*\*\*\*

“We need to have a meeting,” I told my boss. “There’s something I have to tell you. It’s about a huge change

happening in life that will profoundly affect the way I present at work and the way people interact with me.”

His eyes opened wide in alarm. He already knew something was wrong. He’d given me my three month’s critical feedback about my nervousness in meetings. I never met peoples’ eyes. I was unfocused. My team

was in disarray, not knowing where I was taking them.

I had finally told my mother. The result had been everything I could have feared. She was angry, bitter, confused. She denied any knowledge of my condition. Previously I’d lost the woman I’d loved with this revelation. Now I had lost my last link with my childhood.

And for the first time in my life I was free. I could look people in the eye and tell them the truth. I was terrifyingly alone, but I was free.

“Give me a heads-up,” he pleaded. “Some kind of briefing before the meeting.”

I left a copy of *True Selves: a guide to transsexualism* and a short note explaining my conditions in his In Tray.

I was terrified. I was convinced that they would demote me to a job out of the public eye: down in the basement with Quasimodo. My boss had a reputation for a wild temper when things didn’t go his way. I was full of shame and humiliation as I presented for the meeting with him and the head of PR. I’d been on oestrogen for three months. I sat down and burst into tears.

“John,” he said. “We hired you for your mind, your leadership your vision. You’ve ably demonstrated them to us. What can we do to assist you through this process?”





\*\*\*\*\*

*All Staff*

*This note is to let you know that 1 June will be the first day in the office for Josie Emery, Director Literature. Josie is the MC for the [ ] Award event tomorrow (Friday), and those of us attending look forward to speaking with her there.*

*I welcome Josie and thank the Human Resources team for working with all of us to help make this transition a remarkably smooth one within the organisation.*

[ ]

*Executive Director Arts Development*

\*\*\*\*\*

Between those two moments were five months which I am glad I will never have to experience again. I knew they'd be tough and I knew I had to do them. To be so close to what for so many decades had been not just the unrealisable goal but also often the unrealisable nightmare. I could not afford to rush, or to alienate anyone with a careless word. I had to measure everything I said and everything I did. The oestrogen and anti-androgen were making their oh-so-welcome presence known in my body with sudden crashes of mood, inexplicable fevers, growing breast buds and muscle falling away. My hair was returning. But my beard was being extracted one painful hair at a time and nothing would change my voice but constant repetition of exercises and scales. Many of my deeply-rural family were outraged and I was ostracised. I was alone when more than ever I needed support.

I told Lisa I had no energy for work. I just could not bear putting on men's clothes and making the journey.

"So wear women's clothes."

"But I'm not to make the change until June 1. This is February!"

I stared at her. It was incomprehensible. But, everything else she'd told me to do had proven right.

I ransacked the second-hand shops and put on the most androgynous women's shirts I had. No one noticed a damned thing. Black trousers and striped shirt? So what? But the buttons do up the wrong way? Huh? What're you talking about? Oh, never mind.

I got my ears pierced. People thought it looked good. They liked the way my hair was growing.

**"Identify key stake-holders. Bring them aboard early and make them part of the change process and show them how this change represents a win-win situation for everyone. Make them part of the change story."**

Alan's words were with me all the time. I began to tell my seven staff and other key people in the building. Each time I anticipated rejection. Each time I received understanding, support and care. Most wonderfully, other women in the building began to treat me as a woman.

I became aware that what I was doing was creating a drama, a narrative; a story that included them. They were on the journey with me. Women in my unit gave me fashion advice. Sometimes they teased me. Always they supported me.

On the day I learnt that my mother was dying of terminal cancer and did not want to see me, I broke down. Next day I found that my staff had emailed me a link. "Josie, this is how we see our future." It was a link to a site for an all-girl band in the 'Archie' comic strip. "Josie & the Pussycats". I cried.

Then I learnt that gossip columnists wanted to 'out' me in a way that would bring the organisation into disrepute. I was merely a pawn in a bigger power-play. I knew then that the only way for me to manage the story was to make sure I told it in a time and a place of my choosing.

\*\*\*\*\*

My father was a man who fervently believed that luck had saved his life when Japanese troops had ambushed him in a hut in the jungle behind Madang, New Guinea. I'd always argued with him that there was no such thing as luck. Well, I needed to argue that because things never went well in my life. Stuff always came undone. I never got lucky breaks. I'd point out that his luck included having the discipline to take his Thompson sub-machine gun apart, clean it and reload it and place it beside his stretcher before collapsing with exhaustion. His luck consisted of a highly-tuned ear that heard the twig break above the sound of the violent wind-storm lashing the jungle and woke him from that exhausted sleep. His luck included weighing the situation up and knowing the only hope was to charge the patrol moving towards the hut before it could go to ground. And then doing it! Acting upon what he knew. None of that was luck. I could account for every act that got him clear of the hut with his Tommy Gun, his life, but no boots.

## Issue Sixty-Nine

When Federal Cabinet speechwriter, right-wing commentator and journalist, Christopher Pearson offered me his weekly column in the *Weekend Australian* in which to come out – with right to edit the final draft of the copy that went in – I at first thought it was heaven-sent luck. A dignified coming-out in the national paper, with the imprimatur of such a person, would halt any further gossip or criticism from the right. And the left would not comment because to do so would make them look uncool.

But, as with my dad's actions, there was a chain of events that linked Christopher and me back thirty years to literary magazines in Adelaide. It was not luck but the pattern working itself out.

Lisa said it was because I had finally told my truth. "When you tell your truth then the universe supports you," she said. Well, she is *so* New York.

All my life I would wake in high fever from a constant terrifying nightmare in which I would suddenly discover myself out in public as a woman. There would be nowhere to run. Nowhere to hide. And yet, as I looked around me in the dream, no one seemed to notice. Yet my terror was overwhelming.

I now live that dream every day. The only difference is that the fear has vanished. In its place is a calm, clear joy and certainty that I have, after so long, found my own true self and been prepared to live her.

□□□

### PLEASE NOTE!

Appointments for counselling should be made directly with Gaye Stubbs, the Gender Centre Counsellor.  
Phone 9569 2366 on Tuesday or Wednesday.

### PLEASE READ THIS!

If you are moving, please tell us your new address.  
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.

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## International Sex, Gender & Sexuality Clinic

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- Trans Life Coaching
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- 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 2037

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



## You're invited to Dinner!



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all welcome**

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nights  
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***Yummy food - New friends  
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## 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  
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Fit Packs  
Swabs  
Dams



Syringes  
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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.

# ***We didn't use a condom and now I'm worried about HIV***

**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, NUAA AND SWOP OR VISIT WWW.ACON.ORG.AU*

## 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 condoms, lube, dental dams, needle 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.**



**GENDER CENTRE EVENTS CALENDAR 2006**

Items marked \* must be pre-booked. If you are interested in taking part, contact Sean or Dan on (02) 9569 2366 or email [socialsupport@bigpond.com](mailto:socialsupport@bigpond.com)

<b>POLARE</b>	<b>january</b> Wed 18 HIV/Aids information session 6.30pm	<b>february</b>	<b>march</b>
<b>POLARE</b>	<b>april</b> Tue 4 Transgender Youth Wed 5 Meditation Class Sun 23 Easter Barbecue Wed 19 Meditation Class	<b>may</b> Tue 2 Transgender Youth Wed 3 Meditation Class Wed 17 Meditation Class	<b>june</b> Tue 6 Transgender Youth Wed 7 Meditation Class Wed 21 Meditation Class
<b>POLARE</b>	<b>july</b> Mon 3 Op Shop Outing* Mon 3 Transgender Support Gp Wed 5 Meditation Class Thur 6 Transgender Youth Wed 19 Meditation Class	<b>august</b> Tue 1 Transgender Youth Wed 2 Meditation Class Wed 16 Meditation Class Thur 17 Transgender Support Gp	<b>september</b> Mon 4 Trans.Support Tue 5 Trans, Youth Wed 6 Meditation Sat 9 Spring Barbecue Wed 20 Meditation Thur 28 PFAFT Support
<b>POLARE</b>	<b>october</b> Mon 2 Transgender Support Gp Tue 3 Transgender Youth Wed 4 Meditation Class Wed 18 Meditation Class	<b>november</b> Wed 1 Meditation Class Mon 6 Transgender Support Gp Thur 9 Transgender Youth Wed 15 Meditation Class	<b>december</b> Mon 4 Transgender Support Gp Wed 6 Meditation Class Thur 7 Transgender Youth Sun 17 Christmas Barbecue Wed 20 Meditation Class

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

**Friday 11am - 1pm  
Drop-in Coffee Morning**

**Wednesday  
Drop-in dinner  
6-8 pm**

**Op-Shop Extravaganza! Call  
Sean to RSVP!! (See ad. p.17)**

## Sex and Gender Education (SAGE) Needs You!

SAGE is a grassroots organisation that educates, campaigns and lobbies for the rights of **all sex and gender diverse people in Australia:** transsexual, transgender, intersex, androgynous, without sex and gender identity etc.

### Membership is FREE!

SAGE no longer sends out printed newsletters - instead we send out occasional news and updates via email, and also post news items, articles and documents on the SAGE website.


**To join SAGE, and receive occasional news updates, go to <http://lists.cat.org.au/mailman/lisinfo/sage>**

and sign up to our low-volume mailing list

For more information visit our website

**[www.sageaustralia.org](http://www.sageaustralia.org)**

**SAGE - campaigning for your rights!**



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Salon Bookings taken from  
10.00 AM until 6.00 PM Tuesday to Saturday inc Public Holidays.

Subsidised Rates apply for anyone undergoing the Gender Reassignment

 *Polare* is available in pdf format on the Gender Centre Website ([www.gendercentre.org.au](http://www.gendercentre.org.au)) Sooner and in Colour!!!

## 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

Funded by the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and auspiced by South Penrith Youth and Neighbourhood Services Inc.

Phone:(02) 4721 5024

Mobile: 0439 481 008

Fax: (02) 4721 5922

Email: [outsidein@pnc.com.au](mailto:outsidein@pnc.com.au)

# Men's TS Resources in Australia (MTRA)

## Information Sheet 2006



Men's TS Resources in Australia (MTRA) offers resources and health information about transsexualism in men (identified 'female' at birth). Our resources are available to men with ts, their family members (partners, parents, siblings and others), healthcare providers and other professionals, government and policymakers. We aim to inform the public of the issues surrounding transsexualism in men (female to male transsexuals).

MTRA is coordinated by Craig Andrews, with the input of members. MTRA is assisted by the *Men's Health Information and Resource Centre* from University of Western Sydney at Richmond NSW and guided by an Advisory Panel of health and legal specialists.

*MTRA has offered information, support and contact under the name FTM Australia (FTMA) between 2001 and 2005.*

### Membership

MTRA welcomes members. Members are eligible to receive our newsletter and to subscribe to our e-mail discussion list. While membership is free, an annual donation drive occurs yearly in June. MTRA is supported by the donations of members.

More information about membership is available at our website at <http://www.mtra.org.au/> or by contacting Craig on [mail@mtra.org.au](mailto:mail@mtra.org.au) or (0403) 876 393.

### Newsletter

**MTRA's newsletter is published four times a year for the benefit of members, their families and the service providers who care for them.**

### Discussion Lists

**MTRA offers two e-mail community discussion lists:**

**1) OzGuys – open to members including their partners, family members and friends in Australia and New Zealand.**

#### Goals of the discussion list include

- > To encourage friendships and information sharing amongst men and their families
- > To empower men and their families in understanding this condition
- > To encourage men to adopt positive images of being men in society and achieve anything and everything they dream of.

**For more information please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ozguys/>**

**2) Partners – MTRA also supports the e-mail community discussion list **Partners-MTRA** which is open to **partners** of men with transsexualism (identified 'female' at birth).**

For more information please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/partners-mtra/>

To find out more please visit our web page at <http://www.mtra.org.au/>

**We warmly welcome your interest in the Men's TS Resources in Australia and hope to hear from you soon!**



**\$20 -- DVD Sale -- \$20**

about **t**he  
truth  
transsexualism

The fifty-two minute **INTERNATIONALLY  
ACCLAIMED** documentary

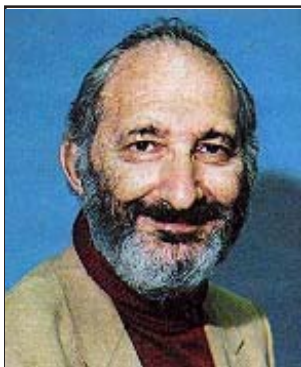
## ***m2f - A Journey in Gender Identity***

Narration by Jon Faine, featuring Georgina Beyer, Professor Milton Diamond, Dr Herbert Bower, Dr Harte, Dr Strecker, Professor Frank Lewins, Julie Peters and others.

AND

**16 Additional Programmes - 2 1/2 hours**

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Contact Patricia Church (03) 9773 1954 or 0411  
719 130 or email: [patdownunder43@hotmail.com](mailto:patdownunder43@hotmail.com)



Professor Milton Diamond



Jon Faine



Georgina Beyer MP



Julie Peters

# FROLIC 2006

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CONTACT GENDER CENTRE: (02) 9569 2366

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

ORDER FORM: Please wnclose cheque or money order made out to the Gender Centre

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$25.00 each. Total: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

# Support Services Pages *(in most cases see also the Directory Pages at the back of the magazine for added detail)*

## problems?

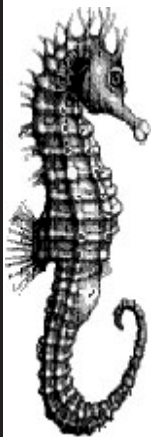
You can write to  
**The Counsellor**  
**The Gender Centre**  
**PO Box 266**  
**Petersham**  
**NSW 2049**

## 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  
Gaye 9569 2366



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"**

## Central Coast Transgender Group Forming

A group aimed at networking transgender persons 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 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 member's right to be different. 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/>

## Gender Affirmation and Liberation (GAAL)

- GAAL is committed to providing a service to: People with the condition of Gender Dysphoria and who are in the process of affirming gender identity by hormonal and/or surgical means or have already done so.
- GAAL 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.
- **Social Activites.** We also have social occasions 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. If you need to contact us urgently **Ph: 0425 785 666**



## AgenderNSW

Agender NSW, is a non-profit organisation, coordinated by volunteers, to provide a social and support group for Transexed, Intersexed, Transgender, cross dressers, families and partners or anyone with gender related issues.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Uniting Church Hall, 48 Regent Street and Portland Road, New Lambton at 6.30pm.

### Meeting dates for 2006:

**12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December.**

Agender NSW, PO Box 11, Windale, NSW, 2306  
 or phone Tanya NSW rep. and MTF rep.(02) 4948 1012 or email  
*agendernsw@yahoo.com*  
 or *apples6@bigpond.net* To browse the website go to *agendernsw.20m.com* Josh,  
 FTM Representative on phone (02) 4937 2184

## Central Coast Transgender Support Group

The CCTGS 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 Medical and Psychological requirements under the Benjamin Standards of Care.

**Mon-Sat 10am-10pm**

**0404 054 000**

**smh101@bigpond.net.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

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)**

## ***OUTER METROPOLITAN AND COUNTRY TRANSEX-INTERSEX SUPPORT (O.M.A.C.T.S.I.S)***

**Our service provides support for individuals and their families, affected by the issues of transsexualism and/or intersex conditions**

**We are able to offer social support and out-of-hours counselling services by telephone.**

**For further information and social support please phone Tanya (0249 481 102) or Gina (0247 511 402)**

***We will soon be in other areas***

# Cervical Screening (Pap Smears) for Pre-op FTM Transgenders, Part 2

by Maggie Smith R.N.

This is a follow up to the article in the last issue of *Polare* on cervical screening (Pap Smears) in pre-op female to male (FTM) transgenders.

The previous article addressed what pap smears are and the requirement for pre-op FTM to have them. This article will look at more specific issues such how to make the pap smear more comfortable and accurate.

The potential emotional and physical discomfort with having a pap smear can cause anxiety. There are a number of things that can help with this. Firstly, having a clinician (nurse or doctor) you feel comfortable is an important step. If it is the first Pap smear let them know. Having the procedure clearly explained and being shown the equipment may be helpful.

A speculum is a plastic or metal instrument inserted in a vagina to allow the clinician to see the cervix. It may be more comfortable to insert the speculum yourself. If this is not offered and you feel it would be beneficial don't be scared to ask. Also speculums come in different sizes. Discuss this with your clinician.

If you have had pap smears in the past and the clinician experienced trouble seeing the cervix they may have asked you to tilt your pelvis or place your hands under your buttocks. Communicate this to your new clinician. Everyone's cervix is in a different place and the clinician being aware of this will assist with making the Pap smear faster and more comfortable.

One of the main issues both you and your clinician need to be aware of is if you are using testosterone and its effect on lubrication in the vagina.

How long you have been on testosterone and the levels of it in your system can affect the levels of lubrication in the vagina and thus the result of the pap smear.

It is important to be aware of this. Lack of lubrication can make a Papsmear very uncomfortable. As well as drying the vagina the testosterone can give it a red or irritated appearance internally and affect the cells obtained and therefore the result of your pap smear.

A way to reduce the discomfort and increase the likelihood of getting an accurate result from the Pap smear is to use an oestrogen pessary prior to the smear. The idea of using

oestrogen can be met with fear and resistance but the oestrogen, when used as a pessary (a tablet inserted in the vagina) has a local and temporary effect. It temporarily changes vaginal and cervical lubrication. It will not counteract the effects of testosterone.

The one potential side effect to be aware of is a small amount of bleeding from the vagina. This does not happen to everyone who uses it and does not last long. The oestrogen will be out of your system within a week of it being stopped. This one potential problem is greatly outweighed by the problems that may be faced if oestrogen is not used.

The recommended pre-Pap smear dose of oestrogen pessarys is one daily for ten days prior to the smear and stop using them forty-eight hours before. The pessary will require a prescription from a doctor. This should be arranged prior to your Pap smear.

I cannot stress enough the benefits of using oestrogen if you have been on testosterone for a number of years or have had an abnormal result from a smear in the past. This pessary greatly reduces discomfort during the smear and increases the chances of getting an accurate Pap result. Not using oestrogen may lead to a result which requires another Papsmear and unnecessary further investigation...

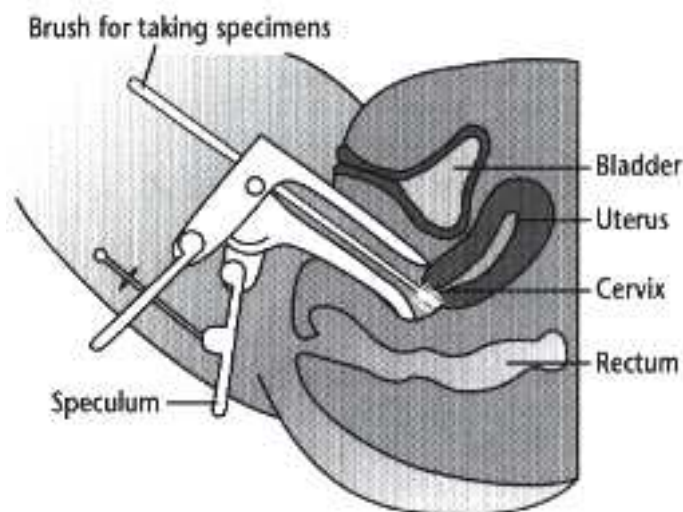
These articles are about raising awareness, the need for pap smears and how to make them as comfortable and

effective as possible. Pap smears are necessary. If you have a cervix and uterus you need a papsmear. If you have not had a Papsmear in over two years you need one.

If you ever experience vaginal or abdominal pain or discomfort on orgasm, bleeding

or spotting from the vagina, do not assume this is normal or related to your dose of testosterone. These are signs something may be wrong. You need a Pap smear. The early detection of abnormal cells in the cervix and regular screening reduces the risk of cancer. Make an appointment today.

## How a Pap Test Is Done



Don't Forget the  
Xmas Barbecue!!!

All Welcome! At  
the Gender Centre

17 December

from

Noon

to 4.00pm





# BEING IN & OUT

## QUEER

© 2001

Laura Seabrook's

#3  
(PART 1)

## STUFF

IF PASSING IS A WAY OF HIDING IN PUBLIC, THEN "BEING IN THE CLOSET" IS THE SAME IN PRIVATE. IT'S ALL ABOUT KNOWLEDGE, AND HOW YOU BEHAVE TO YOUR NEAREST AND DEAREST.

**IN:** SON, WHAT'S THIS MAGAZINE DOING UNDER YOUR BED?

HM, IT'S SOMETHING FOR MEDIA STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY...

THIS IS WHERE YOU ARE SO AFRAID OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF "BEING FOUND OUT" THAT REALLY, YOU DENY AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR IDENTITY.



**OUT:** HEY, YOU'RE GAY AREN'T YOU? WHAT'S ALL THAT MARDI GRAS STUFF ABOUT? DO YOU DRESS UP IN THE MARCH?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? FEEL, I'D RATHER WATCH THE N.B.L. INSTEAD.

OTHERS MAYOR MAY NOT "KNOW ABOUT YOU", BUT EITHER WAY YOU STILL FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF.

**IN YOUR FACE:** HEY EVERYONE - I'M A LESBIAN OK - SO I DON'T WANT TO DATE DREW!!

YOU ARE SO "OUT IN SUCH AN OBVIOUS MANNER THAT IT BECOMES CONFRONTING TO THOSE AROUND YOU.

I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS BREEK.

JERK!

### OBLIGATORY

NOTE

IT'S NOT JUST QUEER FOLK WHO STAY IN CLOSETS - ANYONE WHO TRIES TO "PASS" IN PUBLIC MIGHT ALSO BE "IN" AT HOME. I KNOW OF PAGANS, SOCIALISTS & CROSSDRESSERS WHO DON'T TELL ANYONE INTIMATE ABOUT IT (ANYTHING FOR A QUIET LIFE), SO, IF ANYONE CAN BE "IN" OR "OUT" (AND ALSO "IN YOUR FACE") WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

WHICH IS THE "RIGHT" POSITION TO TAKE? NOW THERE'S A QUESTION! THERE'S NO ONE ANSWER. MORE NEXT ISSUE... SO -

HEY - YOUSE A TRANNY AINT YA? ARE THOSE TITS REAL? HA HA

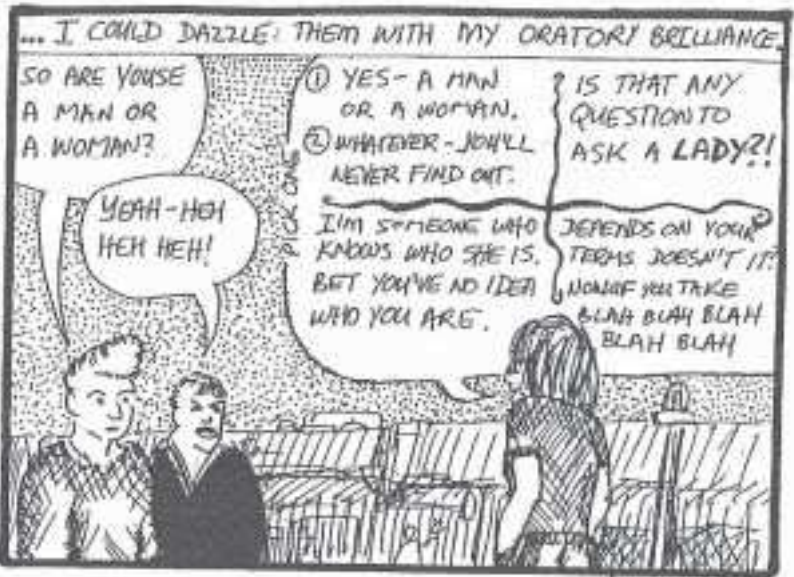
HMMS...

PART 2: TRIE & TALL TALES ABOUT COMING OUT



AS WE LAST LEFT LAURA, SHE WAS BEING HARASSED BY A COUPLE OF IDIOTS OUT FOR A BIT OF "FUN"...

HMM, I COULD RESPOND TO THIS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS...



NAH - TOO COMPLEX, AND IT JUST PROLONGS CONTACT WITH THEM.



NO GOOD EITHER, AFTER ALL ITS ONLY DAY DREAMS.



BUT REALLY, ALL I NEED TO DO IS WALK AWAY



THANKS GUYS, BUT NOT TODAY THANKS. ☺



## Does your child have questions about gender and/or gender identity?

Children with gender identity “issues” may feel:

- confused about whether they are male or female, or
- sure they are the opposite sex from their biological sex (i.e. she feels like a boy although her body is like a girl’s, or he feels like a girl although his body is a boy’s).

Sometimes children have these feelings because they have an intersex condition and were assigned a gender that doesn’t fit for them. (See [www.gendercentre.org.au/kits.htm](http://www.gendercentre.org.au/kits.htm) for more information on intersex conditions). Sometimes it is not clear why children have these feelings.

Our group is for parents whose children fall into the second category – that is, there is no apparent biological reason for the gender confusion.

Children with gender identity issues usually identify with the opposite sex and are unhappy or distressed with their assigned sex. Parents usually notice their children’s gender identity issues when the children say they are of the opposite sex, or that they hate being their own sex, or when they begin frequently to favour clothes, toys, styles of play and interests usually associated with the opposite sex, actively avoiding those associated with their own sex.

Parents whose children have gender identity issues often feel isolated, guilty, angry or confused. They also often experience a lack of understanding or support from school, relatives and neighbours.

If these issues sound familiar to you, and you are interested in

- Learning more about gender identity issues
- Developing practical strategies to help you with your child’s gender issues
- Developing practical strategies to help you talk with school/relatives/ neighbours
- Having contact with others who have children with gender identity issues

**You may want to be part of our free parent support and education group. If so:**

Please contact Catherine Wilson via email: [catherine.wilson@nswiop.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catherine.wilson@nswiop.nsw.gov.au) or phone: (02) 9840 3833 for more information or to register interest. More information about gender identity issues can be found at [www.gendercentre.org.au](http://www.gendercentre.org.au)

*Research participants are wanted for a study into the experience of parents of children and adolescents with gender questions. Must be a parent of a child under fourteen who is currently experiencing questions about his/her gender identity. Contact Catherine Wilson at [catherine.wilson@students.mq.edu.au](mailto:catherine.wilson@students.mq.edu.au) or phone (02) 9840 3833 for further information.*



**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)

**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 Cambera and environs**  
**Phone Simone 0414 517 376**

**DIVAS**  
 "NZ's Only X-Dressers' Boutique  
 We Sell Wigs, Lingerie, Shoes & Boots, Corsets, Dresses, Make-up, Breastforms  
 Discreetly located upstairs at Suite 2 - 146a Lichfield St, Christchurch, NZ  
[www.divasboutique.gaynz.net.nz](http://www.divasboutique.gaynz.net.nz)  
 Ph 379-3446

**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

**Desired Collectables**  
 Wholesalers of Intimate Lingerie and Footwear  
 ABN: 70412714507  
 Featured Items:  
 • European Lingerie  
 Sizes up to G cup  
 • Footwear  
 Boots Platforms Courts Pumps (To size 17 in some styles)  
 • Hosiery  
 Intimate European Styles  
 We specialize in catering to Transgender needs  
 Delivery service Australia/NZ wide  
 PO Box 788  
 Petersham  
 NSW 2049  
 Ph/Fx 02 9820 6260 Kaz 0414 491 114 John 0448 866 461  
[desiredcollectables@gmail.com](mailto:desiredcollectables@gmail.com)

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.

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 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.glcnsn.org.au/>

### 2010 - TWENTY10/GLBT YOUTHSUPPORT

Twenty10 is a NSW-wide organisation that provides support to young transgender, lesbian, gay and bisexual people who are having trouble at home or are homeless. We provide accommodation support, counselling, case management and social support. We also provide information and referrals for young GLBT people and their families and do community education programs throughout NSW.

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.org.au](mailto:info@2010.org.au)

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

### ACON-AIDSCOUNCIL 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

### (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](mailto: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 living with HIV/AIDS who have complex needs. Treatment program includes case management and life skills educational groups. Clients can be referred to a wide range of medical, welfare and psychological services. Clients

are assisted to obtain long-term sustainable housing with a support plan to maintain independent living. Length of stay can be negotiated up to a period of six months. Contact Foley House for further details.

6-8 Bellevue St, Surry Hills  
PO Box 331, Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Tel: (02) 9211.0544  
Fax:(02)9211.0778  
[admin@foley.org.au](mailto:admin@foley.org.au)  
[www.foley.org](http://www.foley.org)

### 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

### SEXUAL HEALTH 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)

### (MCC)METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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 deplors 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

[office@mccsydney.org](mailto:office@mccsydney.org)

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

### MOUNT DRUITT LUXFORD ROAD CLINIC

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

### (MTRA) MEN'S TS

### RESOURCES IN AUSTRALIA

Resources and health information for all men (identified female at birth, their partners, family and service providers. Contact MTRA for more information.

PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW, 2037

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

### 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)

### 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

### AIDS ASSOCIATION

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](mailto:admin@nuaa.org.au)

### PARRAMATTA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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](mailto: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

### SAGE FOUNDATION (Sex and Gender Education Foundation)

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

Ph: 0421 479 285

Email:

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

### SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW

The Seahorse Society is 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: 0423125 860

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

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@swop.org.au)

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

0249 276 808

### SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

Provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly

people to get together in

comfortable, safe and friendly

spaces. Pub social in Newtown on

3rd Sunday of every month

followed by a meal. All welcome.

PO Box 281 Broadway NSW 2007

Tel: (02) 9565.4281 (info line)

[sbn-admin@yahoo.com](mailto:sbn-admin@yahoo.com)

<http://sbn.bi.org>

### SYDNEY BISEXUAL

### PAGANS

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

PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

### SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

Welcomes FTM Men.

PO Box 2064, Boronia Park, 2111

Tel: 9879.4979 (Paul Whyte)

[paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au](mailto:paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au)

### SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

Provides free, confidential health services, including 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 Benerembah 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

### YOUTHBLOCK HEALTH & RESOURCE SERVICE

Free, safe and holistic health service for young people aged between 12-24 years in the inner-West and Canterbury areas of Sydney. Medical, dental and counselling services and music, visual arts, Aboriginal cultural and health promotion programs available. SPACE program for young people questioning their gender or sexuality.

142 Carrillon Ave, Camperdown Ph: 9516 2233

## A.C.T.

**A GENDER AGENDA** is a non-profit group committed to providing support, education, information and relief to people living with any tupe of sex or gender related condition (whether symptoms are physical or mental and are attributable to genetic or other origin).  
PO Box 4010, Ainslie, ACT, 2602  
Ph: 0419 188 048  
Fax: (02) 6247 0597  
Email: polar@homemail.com.au

### AIDSACTION COUNCIL OF ACT

The AIDS Action Council of the ACT provides information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support services for people living with HIV/AIDS  
Westlund House, Acton, ACT 2601  
GPO Box 229, Canberra, ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6257.2855

Fax: (02) 6257.4838

info@aidsaction.org.au

### 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

### SWOP ACT (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) 3837 5645

Fax: (07) 3837 5640

Level 1, 270 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000

### CAIRNS SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

A public health clinic with an interest in and experiece of transgender medicine. Doctors, nurses and psychologist with referral to other services as required.

The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital, The Esplanade, Cairns Ph: (07) 4050 6205

### 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 386, Chermshire South, QLD 4032 Ph: (07) 3357 6361  
www.queenslandgendercentre.org

### 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: sqwisigc@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) 8334 1606

Fax: (08) 363.1046

Freecall: 1800 888 559

### SHINE - SEXUAL HEALTH

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 TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for transsexuals who have changed or are about to change their gender role and for 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) 8422

8400 or country on 1800 182 223

or Sarah on 0409 091 663 or

www.tgfolk.net/sites/satsg/

hrt.html

email: satsgroup@yahoo.com.au

## 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 AND LIBERATION

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

### PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF VICTORIA

#### 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

### CHAMELEON SOCIETY

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

hmp Perth@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.

### AGENDERAUSTRALIA

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

### (MTRA) MEN'S TS RESOURCES IN AUSTRALIA

Resources and health information for all men (identified female at birth, their partners, family and service providers. Contact MTRA for more information.  
PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW, 2037  
www.mtra.org.au

## International

### AGENDERNEWZEALAND

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 TRANSEXUAL

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

**TV ADMIRER, VERY CUTE figure, sexy, feminine, attractive. Fetish crossdressing 'girly nice things'. Seeks friendship other transgender people with similar interests. Write Code No.99, Locker 504, Burwood, NSW, 1805**

## 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

**POST-OP MTF AGED 59, 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 sociable, with a good character. Looking for a female 45 years to 55 years old for c o m m u n i c a t i o n , companionship 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 or e m a i l [bad\\_apples1@hotmail.com](mailto:bad_apples1@hotmail.com)

### 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

### TRANNY SEEKS P E N P A L S

Hi, I'm a pre-op slim M2F. with nice breasts and too much time on her hands. Looking for a friend? Letters from demure to outrageous, leisurely to racy, plain to fantasy, dull to superkink. I'm your girl. From plain to extreme. Any race, gender, age or flavour. Anywhere. You will receive a prompt reply

Ms Sonia Sweaton,  
Locked Bag 144,  
Silverwater, NSW, 1811

**CLOSET TV WOULD LIKE** to hear from CDs, TVs, TGs TSs, FIs, DQs and females who admire TVs.

Jennifer La Rose,  
3343 Westerwald  
St, Apt # 22  
Fairview, Halifax, NOVA  
SCOTIA, B3N 2S6,  
CANADA

## 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

### TRANSGENDER PRE- OP

MTF looking for somewhere to call home, with a relationship with a female woman. 53 years, dark hair, 5'9" tall, still developing. 80kg. Not good-looking but extremely sincere, trusting, honest etc. I'm open to go anywhere, still a worker. Have plenty of driving skill, love to travel (Australia only). I have plenty of good qualities, just need someone to bring them out. I'm the parent of four children and last count eight grandchildren, i.e. no objection to kids!

Rose

CODE 001/06

**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**

# Find out why so many people choose Advanced ...

For some, the permanent removal of hair is vital. Electrolysis has been used to remove hair for over one hundred years and remains the only method which is scientifically proven to **guarantee** permanent results, no matter what colour your hair or skin.

Advanced Electrolysis Centre was established by Jessica Reid in 1996 in Paddington, with the aim of delivering optimal standards in electrolysis.

When you come to Advanced Electrolysis Centre, you will receive:

- Treatment from a qualified and specialist electrologist with over ten years experience;
- The highest level of personal care and attention each and every time, from a practitioner to whom both Australian and international medical specialists refer their patients;
- The reassurance of being treated by a practitioner experienced in full beard removal, and who is conversant with the hair removal requirements for SRS;
- Permanent hair removal through the latest multi-probe galvanic 16 and 32 follicle equipment, in modern private premises;
- The peace of mind ensured by use of autoclave sterilization.

You can contact Jessica Reid on **02 9362 1992** for a free consultation, and obtain expert advice on how to be free of your unwanted hair **forever**.



Ph: 02 9362 1992, 9 George Street, Paddington NSW 2021  
[www.advancedelectrolysiscentre.com](http://www.advancedelectrolysiscentre.com)

