

Polare

MAGAZINE OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES GENDER CENTRE



Edition 73

October-December 2007



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.



**7 Bent Street
PO Box 266
Petersham
NSW 2049**

Tel:(02) 9569 2366

Fax: (02) 9569 1176

**Email:
gendercentre@bigpond.com**

**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.

Cover: Grace Abrams and her wife, Fiona. Grace and Fiona have recently made a significant breakthrough in the struggle for recognition of transgenders to marry, and to have their marriage continue after legal gender reassignment. Grace and Fiona's story is in this issue.

CONTRIBUTORS

phinn borg, katherine cummings, gaye stubbs, tracie o'keefe, bernadette brentwood, max hopwood, craig andrews, jennifer lovelace, fiona power, grace abrams

**CONTENTS
REGULAR**

- 4** Phinn's Report
- 4** Drop-ins 2008
- 5** Letters to the Editor
- 10** Counsellor's Page by Gaye Stubbs
- 30-31** News Items Of Interest
- 34** Goods and Services
- 35-39** Directory Assistance
- Inside back cover** Community Noticeboard

FEATURES

- 9** Power With Grace - A Winning Combination by Katherine Cummings
- 12** The Power of a Name by Bernadette Brentwood
- 13** Alive And Well - FTM Australia by Craig Andrews
- 14** Stigma and Health by Dr Max Hopwood
- 19** Rose's Progress and Her Foundation by Jennifer Lovelace
- 18** My Side of the Story by Fiona Power
- 32-33** Book Reviews by Tracie O'Keefe

SERVICES & NOTICES

- 7** Men's TS Resources in Australia (MTRA)
- 8** Tranznation Survey
- 22-25** Hep C Fact Sheets
- 26** Sex and Gender Education (SAGE)
- 28** NSW Seahorse Society/ Central Coast Transgender Group/ Gender Affirmation and Liberation (GAAL)
- 29** AgenderNSW/Central Coast TransgenderSupport Group/ Queensland Gender Centre/ OuterMetropolitan And Country Transex-Intersex Support/

THE FINE PRINT

Polare

resources@gendercentre.org.au
 PO Box 266, Petersham
 NSW 2049
 Phone: (02) 9569 2366
 Fax: (02) 9569 1176
 Email: gendercentre@bigpond.com
 Website: www.gendercentre.org

Polare is published in Australia by **The Gender Centre Inc.** which is funded by the NSW Health Department through the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch, and supported by the Department of Community Services under the SAAP program.

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

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

Unsolicited contributions are welcome, though no guarantee is made by the Editor that they will be published, nor any discussion entered into. The Editor reserves the right to edit such contributions without notification. Any submission which appears in *Polare*, may be published on our Internet site.

Polare A Magazine for people with gender issues

© 2005 The Gender Centre Inc, All Rights Reserved

Editor: Katherine Cummings

DEADLINE

for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is the eighth of December 2007.

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Publisher, The Gender Centre Inc., the NSW Department of Health or the Department of Community Services.
 Polare printed by Breakout Printing (02) 9660 9111

Phinn's Report



Hello to all! The Gender Centre held its Annual General Meeting in September and there was a good turnout this year with lots of new faces and a new Board Member joining the board, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Elizabeth Riley to the board. Most of you will know Elizabeth.

This month the Women's Housing Company gave us a new Exit Property which takes us up to three refuge houses and six exit flats in total. The Gender Centre now has nine properties with a total of seventeen beds.

The team at the Centre comprises Vicki Nash, Client Support Worker, Elizabeth Ceissmen, Case-Manager Paula Hartigan, Residential Worker, Gaye Stubbs Counsellor, Katherine Cummings Resource Worker, David Burke Admin, Dash Gray, Outreach Worker, Birdi, Outreach Worker, Rusty Nannup, Reception and myself, Phinn Borg, Manager.

I would also like to introduce to you our student Fuschia, Fuschia has come to us from the Australian College of Applied Psychology for a ten-week placement and will be working alongside Gaye Stubbs our counsellor.

The Centre has had many requests for student placements in the last few weeks and we will try to accommodate student needs.

The aim of the Gender Centre in taking on students is to have them work with each member of the team and thus gain a wider perspective about the range of issues dealt with in the agency.

Students who are interested in taking on a placement at the Centre are all required to submit an application and meet the agencies selection criteria

I would like to remind you all to keep a look out on the Gender Centre's website for upcoming events, groups and courses.

I would like to wish all a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Keep safe.

Phinn

Friday Drop Ins for 2008

Jan 11

11am-1.30pm Welcome for the clients of the Gender Centre who have been with us for twelve months or less.

Feb 8

Social drop-in 11am-1.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Mar 7

11am-1.30pm Nutrition information day. Everyone welcome.

Apr 4

11am-1.30pm Sexual health information. All welcome.

May 2

Social drop-in. Everyone welcome.

Jun 6

Endocrinology (hormones) workshop. 11am-1.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Jul 4

Social drop-in 10.00am-12.30pm
[note earlier start]

High tea. Everyone welcome

Any questions call Liz on 9569 2366.

Editorial - Katherine Cummings



When variant forms of law exist in a country, or other legislative unit, it is inevitable that where these laws are incompatible one or the other must take precedence.

This fairly obvious statement has been brought about by the Anglican Church, once more rearing its ugly old head in

Britain.

The Most Reverend (sic) Peter Smith, Archbishop of Cardiff is seeking to take on the British Government which has dared to use new equality legislation to force the Church to allow transsexuals to occupy positions within the Church.

Ignoring the fact that the new laws do not mandate that any specific individual would be entitled to ordination, or to become a nun, but merely prohibit any form of "indirect discrimination" against those who are post-operative transgenders, the Church is seeking exemptions from the law, demanding access to the original records of all who apply for ordination or entry to an order of nuns.

Archbishop Smith (surely they could have found a Jones to fill the see of Cardiff?) has been quoted by the *Times* as saying "Many Christians believe, on strongly held religious grounds, that gender is given before birth and cannot be changed."

Leaving aside my own viewpoint, which is that all religions are equally foolish and that anyone who wants to become an official member of the bureaucracy of a religion is equally deluded, I still (like Voltaire) feel the need to defend the rights of all people to be seen as equal under the law, whether that law is Common Law or Ecclesiastical Law.


If a person has been reassigned from one gender to the other he or she should have every right conferred on her or his affirmed gender, without exception.

To rule otherwise is to create classes and sub-classes of citizens who are treated differently and whose differing treatment can be enforced by law. There is enough class consciousness in Britain already, based on lineage and wealth, without building in further layers of snobbery and discrimination based on gender-role history. Enough is enough.

It is a simple fact that transgender is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible and to suggest that it is perpetuates the discredited view that transgender is in some way linked to sex and in some way to homosexuality.

The only exception I can point out to my earlier statement that where two sets of laws exist in the same country one must give way to the other is the notion of traditional law enclaves, where a different set of laws can prevail, according to earlier, or different, principles. We have seen such laws operate in Australia and in the United States, where indigenous people are allowed a measure of autonomy within demarcated areas. If the Anglican Church is prepared to live in some segregated part of Britain (the Isle of Wight, maybe, or perhaps, since they don't like to recognise women as equals, the Isle of Man) then maybe they can have their regressive laws and customs. Otherwise, they should not.

To take a rest from my hobby horse for a moment, I would like to share some very positive experiences with you from my recent excursions outside the cloistered walls of the Gender Centre. One of my duties is to talk to outside organisations or groups and recently I seem to have done little else. I talked to a Biology Group at Macquarie University (an annual gig), spent an evening with a post-graduate medical ethics seminar at the University of Sydney, participated in an all-day conference on social diversity at the Macarthur TAFE, talked to an assembly of around 200 TAFE students at the Nirimba Educational Precinct located between Blacktown and Richmond and two weeks ago spent several hours as a "living book" in Martin Place for the Mental Health Association. The living library idea was new to me. The idea apparently originated in Denmark and it's a bit like speed dating. A number of people are gathered together who want to pass on information and they can then, like library books, be "borrowed". People choose someone to talk to and then they have fifteen minutes to ask questions or make statements. Our "books" included an ageing man living with AIDS, a bi-polar woman, a woman caring for a husband with MS and a son with bi-polar, a lesbian clergywoman, a woman who asserts that she is of no gender whatsoever, a Chinese woman who wanted to talk about life in Australia, a married couple from PFLAG who have a gay son and a lesbian daughter and, of course, yours truly, a transgender woman. All very inter-est-ing, as Henry Gibson used to say, peering out from under his Wehrmacht helmet like a disillusioned tortoise. Or was that Henrik Ibsen?

Katherine 

FTMAUSTRALIA ON ASPECTS OF GENDER IDENTITY

Dear Editor,

In the last edition of *Polare*, Tom Cho makes the following claim on page 14:

“OzGuys, the email list run by FTM Australia ... censored by the list moderator, who deletes posts that do not fit his beliefs about what aspects of gender identity should be discussed.”

Tom is right in saying OzGuys is run by FTM Australia, not the ‘list moderator’. The remainder of Tom’s statement is untrue.

Before Tom became a member of FTM Australia, the men who started OzGuys in 2001 decided what is appropriate for the email list in order to function as a *support group* for a range of people seeking help.

This group formed the guidelines of OzGuys which are freely available online and to new members www.ftmaustralia.org/ozguys.

The guidelines have little to do with my beliefs about ‘gender identity’. My personal beliefs about ‘gender identity’ would surprise Tom.

OzGuys has a huge range of FTMs (pre and post transition) including lesbians, people wondering about transition for themselves, intersex men, women who were identified male at birth, partners and supporters.

Members can join FTM Australia online or by post - and then they are welcome to connect with OzGuys. Today OzGuys has over 116 members and growing.

Since those early days in 2001, the network has over 240 members today. Not all members join OzGuys but if they have access to the internet they are more than welcome,

to post and share their challenges and triumphs.

Tom makes some terrific observations about the transition process in the rest of his article.

Regards,

Craig Andrews
FTMAUSTRALIA

PO Box 488, Glebe NSW 2037

Website www.ftmaustralia.org

Email mail@ftmaustralia.org

AND A LOVELY BOUQUET!

Dear Katherine,

You did real well with edition 72. It lifted my soul and made me think there is light at the end of my darkness. Thank you. Keep up the good work. It’s the best yet that I ever read anyway.

Regards,

Craig McLennan

Many thanks, Craig. It lifts our spirits, too, when someone tells us we are doing the right thing.

Kate

Dear Katherine,

I would like you to please pass on my sincere condolences to Carmel for the passing of Stephanie. I could probably surf the internet and find an email address for Carmel somewhere but as this occurred almost two months ago I don’t want to invoke any further sadness by raising the issue out of the blue.

Could I ask you to please pass these condolences on at a time that you believe is appropriate. I didn’t have many dealings with Stephanie while I worked at the Centre but I do remember her in an early visit to the Centre, she may have even had an appointment with me, I don’t remember as my memories of my

days there and the clients I saw are quite blurred now. I do remember however, and I hope this doesn’t sound harsh, but I do remember thinking to myself about Stephanie “You’re going to have to work hard”.

I didn’t see her at the Centre for a long time after, and I guess that is because Carmel took her under her wing, but sometime later both Carmel and Stephanie arrived at a barbecue and I couldn’t believe both how fabulous Stephanie looked and also how confident and comfortable she was.

It was one of those moments that I felt while working there, one of those moments that among the constant doom and gloom of clients there are moments, very few and far between moments, that somebody has succeeded and it makes it all worthwhile as a worker. I just felt so proud and happy for her. I don’t often read *Polare* while I’m adding it to the website, but today I did and was extremely saddened to learn of Stephanie’s passing.

Can I also say that Carmel’s eulogy was very well written (of course), and extremely moving.

Kind regards,

Nicole

Thank you, Nicole. I read your message to Carmel over the phone before obtaining permission from both of you to print it here.

Stephanie was a lovely woman who often visited my home and I, too, saw her blossom from an “ugly duckling” into an attractive and self-assured woman.

The fact that she was let down by many of those who should have been her supporters, and was eventually driven to take her own life is a tragedy which occurs all too frequently in our community.

Katherine

**FTMAustralia (MTRA)
Information Sheet 2007**

FTM Australia is a membership-based network which has offered contact, resources and health information for men identified *female* at birth, their family members (partners, parents, siblings and others), healthcare providers and other professionals, government and policymakers since 2001.

We aim to inform the public of the issues surrounding transsexualism in men (female-to-male transsexuals).

This Australian-wide network is coordinated by Craig Andrews, with the input of members and guided by an Advisory Panel of health and legal specialists.

Membership

Members receive our newsletter *Torque* and access to our e-mail discussion list, *OzGuys*.

Newsletter

Our newsletter – *Torque* is published four times a year for the benefit of members, their families and service providers. *Torque* is posted out to members free of charge throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Discussion List

Our e-mail discussion list is called *OzGuys*. It is open to members of FTMAustralia living in Australia and New Zealand.

To find out more please visit our website at www.ftmaustralia.org/

More information about membership is available through
Our website at www.ftmaustralia.org/
By email mail@ftmaustralia.org
By post PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW 2037

We warmly welcome your interest
in the network and
hope to hear from you soon!



This network is supported entirely by members

**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 July-September 2007 issue. of *Polare*.

.....
• **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) 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.

The url for the survey is: www.tranznation.org

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

Aude Chalon (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

Power With Grace, a winning combination Issue Seventy-three

by Katherine Cummings

When Grace Abrams married Fiona Power they were both aware that Grace would one day be taking the step which allows transgenders to claim the opposite gender role in all facets of their lives, provided they fulfil certain bureaucratic prerequisites. One such condition is that the person who is to be legally (as opposed to innately or medically) reassigned, must be single. The alternative, too shocking to contemplate, would be a same-sex marriage, a terrible no-no in the eyes of unthinking politicians who are seldom clear on the differences between sex, sexuality, innate gender and gender role.

Grace and Fiona went into their married relationship with open eyes. If they had been like most other couples faced with one party to the marriage transitioning F2M or M2F they might have divorced or continued in their marriage without the benefit of legislative documentary blessings in the form of revised birth certificate or access to a passport with the new gender shown.

Fiona and Grace were made of sterner stuff. After Grace went to Thailand for reassignment surgery she was refused a passport showing her as female, on the grounds that she remained married to Fiona.

Grace appealed this decision to Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister in September 2007, citing the Australian Passports Act, which says that every Australian citizen is entitled to a passport and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which says that everybody has the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose their residence.

This position was resisted by the Department of Foreign Affairs, on the grounds that same-sex marriages are not legal in Australia, but on appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal the decision was made in favour of Abrams and Power, by the Deputy President of the Tribunal, the Hon. RNJ Purvis, AM, QC and the Minister for Foreign Affairs was instructed to issue a passport to Grace showing her female gender. "It is totally wrong," said Grace in a phone interview with *Polare*, "for a person to be required to choose between their marriage and having appropriate documentation."

"I advise everyone in similar circumstances to apply for their passports now, before the politicians pass new legislation forbidding the newly-won advantage. There are a lot of couples like us, who have to choose between

their family and having their gender recognised. We are the first officially recognised same-sex couple and if enough people follow our example we may be able leverage it into a change in the law."



Fiona and Grace

David Shoebridge, the lawyer who acted for Abrams, said the decision was a victory for common sense over prejudice.

It has been apparent for some time that the Department of Immigration is out of sympathy with transgenders who wish to have passports reflecting their innate gender. Recent decisions to force transgenders travelling overseas to have reassignment surgery travel on passports showing their birth gender, or on travel documents with the gender

space left blank have shown how out of touch with reality some politicians can be.

The measure, which led to a strong legal challenge from Stephanie Imbruglia, purports to be an anti-terrorist measure and is about as stupid as the theory that says asylum seekers arriving in unseaworthy boats are probably terrorists bent on Australia's destruction. Just as it is far more likely that a terrorist will arrive flying first class with forged documents and a suitcase full of money rather than risking the high seas in a leaky fishing boat, so it obvious that a terrorist trying to infiltrate our borders will have access to any kind of travel documents needed.

To insist that a person who has been living in the new gender role for more than a year, often more than two, and no longer looks in any way like his her predecessor-person, should carry a travel document which draws unwanted attention to her/him from Immigration, Customs and anti-Terrorism bodies is a form of bureaucratic bullying, not unusual in our current society, but certainly to be resisted wherever possible.

The gender variant community owes gratitude to activists like Grace Abrams and Stephanie Imbruglia and their brave supporters like Fiona Power. And we also owe them support wherever and whenever the need arises!

Anyone interested in the judgement and proceedings should refer to:

www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/aat/20071816.html

This piece was written by Katherine Cummings, from telephone and email material from Grace and Fiona, and with added detail from a Sydney Star Observer story by Cara Davis

Dear Reader,

Change is in the air. Perhaps it's the giving up of Winter to the coming of Spring; but whatever it is, there is a detectable difference.

We are moving. It takes preparation and, after the flurry of activity has passed, adjustment.

No more turning into Morgan Street, walking up the steps, sometimes picking up the paper, looking to see if the door is open, checking if the security grill is locked, peering in while waiting for it to be opened, hearing the sound of talking coming from within. Walking along the small hall and greeting others, seeing Paula sitting at her desk of seventeen years, making a tea or coffee in the kitchen, sometimes sitting outside in the sunlight and having a chat - at 75 Morgan Street. *Morgan* – two syllables, soft and hard sounds echoing the word's etymology (<http://www.behindthename.com>): 'From the old Welsh masculine name Morcant, which was possibly derived from Welsh *mor* "sea" and *cant* "circle". As a (possibly unrelated) feminine name it was used by Geoffrey of Monmouth for the Arthurian sorceress Morgan Le Fay.'

By the time you read these words, the Centre will be housed in Bent Street. The street bends; it's near a park; the house has two storeys. Now there will be steeper steps to climb - to the rooms above with the counselling room on the right, Katherine's room on the left, and the administration and manager's office further along. The layout downstairs is similar to that of Morgan Street, from the case managers' and client service room at the front, to the reception area (now in front of you as you enter through the side door), to the sitting/lounge area and kitchen - and by the time this edition of *Polare* is printed and distributed, the first Wednesday night Drop-In at Bent Street will have happened.

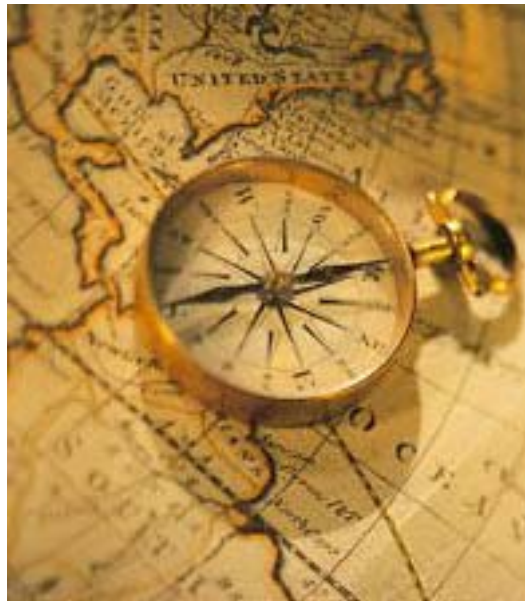
The process of Change brings us to new places, new meanings and ways of living. Our actions, interactions, and the language we use may reflect, or bring about, shifts in societal attitudes and values. TV programs and movies, articles and books also reflect and effect change. New terms come into use and new models for managing change are proposed. A new resource (acquired by the *Polare* editor/resource person), *Sexual Orientation & Gender Expression in Social Work Practice* (Morrow

Polare page 10

October-December 2007

& Messinger Eds., 2006), encourages people working in the social work field with 'GLBT' (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) people to advocate for change by developing an awareness of the needs of 'GLBT' people and observing guidelines which will engender 'knowledge-based affirmative practice' (p.10). That there is sometimes a gap in understanding between clients (people accessing service providers) and practitioners (doctors, nurses, social workers, casemanagers, therapists) is alluded to by writers James I. Martin and D.R. Yonkin (see contribution 5, *Transgender Identity*) when commenting on the lack of 'standardisation of the language around trans experiences' and the likelihood that 'transpeople' may have 'their own understandings of terms and phrases that differ from those used by academics and other professionals' (p. 106).

Is it possible, however, that this lack of a common language, paradoxically, allows for debate, discussion, individual expression, and change?



I wonder, for although standardisation creates useful categories which may assist people to make sense of their personal experience and find a niche in the world, these same categories can be used to contain and label people, limiting opportunities for self expression and realisation of individual potential.

As practitioners can choose to advocate for their clients and make a difference for the people they are working with, so too can clients make a

difference.

By questioning assumptions and challenging stereotypes, clients can influence practitioners in the way they view both clients and themselves. Every client and every interaction has an impact on practitioners and their work practices and as the terminology within the 'transcommunity' changes, with the 'umbrella' term 'transgender' quickly giving way to the simpler and more impartial *trans*, by itself and in conjunction with other terms' (pp.105-106, *ibid*), so too do these new terms find their way into the vocabulary of service providers and the language of the wider community.

Our common language can be enriched to reflect the range of human experience, and attitudes *to* and

perceptions of identity and self-expression can be transformed. In the words of Harriet Lerner (*Dance of Intimacy*, 1989): ‘Although the connections are not always obvious, personal change is inseparable from social and political change.’ and, I would add, vice versa. Change, *any change*, may be welcome and sought after, but sometimes it is thrust upon individuals and communities. While some people may create or embrace new words, new trends and models for helping themselves or others to move forward, other people may feel threatened, overwhelmed or it may just feel wrong. Whereas at one stage in time a small group is working hard to be heard and change the status quo, at another time the wider community may have adapted to and even adopted new ideas and behaviours, leaving smaller communities clinging to the known, the familiar, for fear of being lost in the current, of losing position and a well-earned group identity. And whereas at one stage both the individual and the group may stand out, with the movement of time both may blend in, be overlooked, become obsolete, or find an acceptance of a new situation; for whether individually or as a member of a small or larger community, ... ‘You can get accustomed to anything.’ (Edna St Vincent Millay, “Spring Song,” *The Harp Weaver*, 1925, p.43 in *The Beacon Book of Quotations for Women*, compiled by Rosalie Maggio, 1992).

By the time this reaches you, the location of the Centre will have changed, the outside may or may not have become familiar, the inside will be somewhat different and in the process of settling in; and, with time, with vivid or fading memories, there will be reflections and reminiscing (‘Remember when..?’) about the days spent at Morgan Street and each person will have individual thoughts and feelings about the journey from one place to the other, from the past until the present.

And for the future? Forgotten and unspoken words find expression, and in the midst of life’s chatter may *your* voice be heard.

Yours sincerely,

GAYE

PS.


Bent - one syllable, numerous meanings (including the colloquial and technical); as a name, the meaning’s more obscure: ‘Danish form of Benedictine. From the Late Latin name which meant “blessed” (www.behindthename.com).

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 |  | Syringes |
| Condoms | | 1ml, 2.5ml, |
| Spoons | | ml |
| Water | | |
| Fit Packs | | needles |
| Swabs | | g, 23g, |
| Dams | | g, 26g |

or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr advice, information and referral service. Sydney 02 9331 2111
Country 009.42.2599

You're invited to Dinner!



WEDNESDAY
nights
6 - 8pm

Yummy food - New friends
- Free -

Friends/Family
all welcome

7 Bent Street, Petersham

The Power of a Name

by Bernadette Brentwood

What is your name?
Have you ever changed your name? And what does the name you love mean to you?

We all live in a world of names, places and emotional spaces. Each tiny name can speak volumes about the subject and the virtues of individuality, character and identity. We use names to reference and cross-reference our speech, even literally to cause things to make sense.

A name might be thought of as a short song. It "is" us and we teach people how to sing it. A name is also personal property and definitely an extension of self. Perhaps names are as alive as we are.

A rose by any other name may indeed smell sweet but we will always seek to classify the things and people we encounter and, of course, ourselves.

Many individuals can be happy at some stage in their lives to shed the bondage of their birthnames and recreate themselves with a "new mantra".

The decision to change, or allow a new name to evolve is always personal and should be respected. Our self esteem may be injured by people ignoring these changes.

Common excuses may include. "I've always known you as -----," "changing your birth name is disrespectful to your family and friends," "I don't like that name for you," "you don't know how confusing this is becoming for the rest of us."

Life and people, however, change and the onus does seem to be with the one changing his or her name to "enforce" or perhaps "reinforce" this in a non-confronting way. Persistence, consistency and good humour are the key to getting the point across.

People can change their names by deed poll or by reputation and eventually many people do both.

When we are referred to by the name we want to be known by, we can feel that we belong in the scheme of things. When we are called by other names we may feel confused, angry, depressed, aggravated and hurt.

Nothing cuts to the quick quite like a name. Terms of endearment or pet names can boost morale when used by people we care about.

Discretion, respect and appropriate fair play are key in affairs dealing with people and their personal names. The power of a name is a very important tool to be used by many in reinventing their gender roles. The misuse by people or these names is an injury when there is a nice

way to do everything - and they don't like it when the tables are turned.

Two wrongs, do not make a right, unless of course fighting fire with fire is the last avenue open to you in your pursuit of liberty.

All life is precious, with everyone deserving love and respect. Is there

somebody you can compliment on her or his name today?

Here's to us, and all our very own names. May we bring good fortune upon them.

And More About Names ...

The NSW Police appear to be unaware of the rights of transgenders who have adopted new names following transition from one gender role to the other. A recent job application which involved a police check resulted in a report which referred to the legally transitioned transgender by her birth name with a statement that she also had an alias (her legally registered female name), and proceeded to refer to the subject as "he". The transgendered person was not given the job in question although it goes without saying that the employing body would not admit that the candidate's transgender status had affected the decision.

When the transgender concerned protested to the Police, the spokesman for the section which carries out criminal record checks stated that the procedure would be followed of keeping the original name as the 'primary' name, with all later names referred to as aliases. The gender assigned at birth would also continue to be the gender form used by the police with regard to any record checks carried out by them at the request of an employer.

The corollary to this is clear. Any transgendered person who applies for a job and is required to have a police record check will be "outed" by the police, even if there is no criminal record involved.

At one time the Immigration Department took an equally hard line with regard to Naturalisation Certificates. That anomaly has been corrected so that transgenders can receive amended Naturalisation Certificates showing their legally registered names. The Police should be required to follow suit when making record checks. KC



From the early days of FTM Australia in 2001 when there were only twelve members to today with over 200 members, the network is in great shape! Over the past seven years, the FTM Australia network has been slowly growing as new members join up to be part of a truly national network across Australia. We also welcome New Zealand members—as full members of our network.

If you're thinking about transitioning female-to-male, or you are already transitioning, why don't you join up as a member! You can do this online at our www.ftmaustralia.org or by dropping a letter in the post to PO Box 488, Glebe NSW 2037.

FTM Australia has a range of members of all ages, including a growing number of older men who transitioned years ago. Our newsletter, *Torque*, is free to members and published four times a year. *Torque* is jam-packed full of information for men transitioning female-to-male in Australia and New Zealand. It has proven to be a very useful to our membership scattered throughout Australia – your advertisements are free in *Torque*, contact old friends or guys in your area, there's useful information about transition, and we have a growing number of regular writers.

The website is growing with a huge amount of personal stories and information specific to your situation and the network offers a free nationwide referrals listing for health service providers. The online library has plenty of stories and information going back to 1991.

Back in 2003, a partner took on the huge job of creating a handbook catering to the needs of partners and family members. She created a fantastic resource called *Stand by your man (and stay sane in the process!)* – a handbook full of personal accounts by partners and other family members, information about transitioning from guys who'd been there as well as information about getting married and starting a family. Since then, *Stand by your man* has been revised and has been re-published recently with new items. You can see an advertisement for this informative resource in this edition of *Polare*.

Over time, FTM Australia has slowly provided a huge range of different resources. You can see them on our publications page on our website at www.ftmaustralia.org/publications. There are two helpful factsheets about chest reconstructive surgery (“Chest Surgery & Chest Surgery Questions”) written by a plastic reconstructive surgeon in Sydney who has done hundreds of chest surgeries; newly revised “Guidelines for journalists” and a really practical

information sheet if you're wondering ‘Can we have children?’ FTM Australia has an increasing number of families headed up by Dads who started life in a *female* form.

If you have access to the Internet, come and chat with us on Thursday nights 7.30pm until around 9.30pm (Aust. Eastern Standard Time). This has become our regular get together online. Details on how to join in are here www.ftmaustralia.org/chat.html

If you just want to leave a quick note about our website or service, you can also leave a note on the (spam-free) guestbook. As you might have already read over in ‘Letters to the Editor’ we have an email support group called *OzGuys* for all members of the network who have an email address. If you've got questions about transition, testosterone, doctors, treatment, surgeries or you are willing to offer your ideas on ‘how-to's and help others out – why don't you join up? This online support group has been very helpful to many men over the years and this important work between members continues today!

The most exciting thing this year for FTM Australia is the up-coming publication *Transitioning female-to-male in Australia*. This isn't far off now. At over 240 pages in draft form, this is going to be a really solid useful resource when finished.

Draft sections of the text are currently being edited by others involved in this publication. If you'd like to be part of the team and join James, Henry, Matt, Alex and Jake – please drop me a line.

If you'd like to reserve a copy in advance, (to make sure I order a sufficient number of first runs) let me know.

The handbook needs a book cover which will be full colour front and back. If you'd like to give this a go, there's a book cover design competition open until the first of November. Contact FTM Australia for more info about this and the measurements. If you have any questions about this book cover please email mail@ftmaustralia.org

I'm hoping to be able to put something in *Polare* each edition about FTM Australia. Until December, be safe.

Craig Andrews
Coordinator, FTM Australia
PO Box 488, Glebe NSW 2037
Website www.ftmaustralia.org
Email mail@ftmaustralia.org



The term 'stigma' comes from ancient Greek and was used to describe the signs which were cut or burnt into a human body to mark a person as someone of unusual or bad moral status. The bearers of these stigma-signs were slaves, criminals and traitors; people to be avoided particularly in public places (Goffman, 1968). Two and a half thousand years later the term stigma has come to describe the disgrace or social disqualification which arises from possession of an attribute, visible or unseen, that is considered deeply discrediting. Sociologist Erving Goffman, since publication of his 1963 treatise, 'Stigma: Notes on the management of spoiled identity' is considered the founder of modern stigma theory. By the early 1960s sociology was deeply concerned with the notions of conformity and deviance and Goffman used this framework to study interactions between individuals that led to stigma. He noted that it is the social meanings which are ascribed to particular attributes in a given context, rather than an attribute *per se*, that stigmatise an individual or a group.

Take an attribute such as the love of reading; many people would feel no compunction in being seen walking into a library, on the other hand, a professional criminal would probably not feel comfortable being seen by his peers entering a library (Goffman, 1968). Goffman redefined a stigmatized individual as someone who possesses an undesired characteristic and who is therefore 'disqualified from full social acceptance'.

He described three differing types of stigma as: (i) that associated with abominations of the body like physical deformities and including diseases such as leprosy, (ii) stigma associated with blemishes of individual character (e.g., weak-will, dishonesty, mental disorders and addictions), and (iii) stigma associated with 'tribal' identity such as ethnicity and religion.

In the past forty-five years, social scientists have refined Goffman's theory, particularly by highlighting the *social processes* which underpin interactions between individuals.

Today stigma is increasingly understood as both a social process perpetrated by non-marginalised groups to achieve goals of exclusion and conformity, and a psychosocial process that marginalised groups must navigate and contend with (Ahern et al, 2007). Indeed, powerful social groups stigmatise individuals or groups of

people who display difference from social norms and who identify with or enact unsanctioned behaviours. Stigmatisation is a means by which societies defend themselves against overt or perceived threats to cultural values, and stigma is manifested through rules and sanctions directed towards 'offenders' (Malcolm et al. 1998). For example, most gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people are familiar with stigma; non-heterosexual people challenge previously cherished notions of the 'naturalness' of heterosexual gender roles. Same-sex attracted people are perceived by powerful social structures, like the military, as undermining the

authority of patriarchy. Similar is the concern of religion—testament to the power of heterosexual men to define and control what is moral, ethical and acceptable in life—which has historically and persistently opposed

recognition of gay rights. Indeed, God's love is not boundless, there are limits and theological exclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people help to define 'acceptable' morality.

Here, the stigmatising trait or value is one that conflicts with an important cultural value upheld by the majority (Malcolm et al. 1998; Gilmore et al. 1994); that is, compulsory heterosexuality where straight men rule! Ultimately, stigmatisation and its corollary, discrimination, are means by which societies deter unwanted behaviours (Ahern et al, 2007). The kind of behaviours that come to be stigmatised, however, can vary widely between cultures and can change over time (Fulton 1999; Pittam 2000).

Over recent decades, stigma has entered popular discourse thanks largely to Goffman's work and the concept is becoming increasingly common and important within health discourses today. However, in the context of health research and policy, Goffman's formulation of stigma has limited application as today the language of abominations, blemishes and tribal identities is antiquated.

The concept he developed is so broad that it fails to address health-related interests of social and health policy, and the central notion in his thesis of 'normality' and 'deviance' has less currency in a multi-cultural context like modern Australia where what is considered normal in one culture might be stigmatised in another. The core concern here is that while Goffman effectively focused on shifting the discourse of stigma from symbols to social processes by studying social interactions, he did not

Often, a disease comes to represent all the 'suffering and evil' in society and people with the disease are positioned as an out-group representing 'societal shortcomings, inadequacies, unmet needs or unrealized expectations

spend much time discussing the social structures and discourses, like gender and class that inform all personal interactions.

Although he alluded to social structure often, he failed to elaborate on the impact of how power differences, for example based on income, were played out during interpersonal interactions. It is for these reasons that a revised adaptation of stigma theory is necessary for health research, disease control and community action. A revision needs to identify and highlight the structural and organizational factors which underpin health-related stigma.

Health-related stigma

Research into health-related stigma has increased over recent years as the impacts of stigma on health have become more evident.

Stigma is increasingly seen as an added burden on the health of affected individuals who are often already dealing with stigma associated with poverty, and/or minority-group status. Stigma influences the health-seeking behaviour of many health consumers; it can delay appropriate help-seeking, interfere with access to treatment for treatable problems, and impede the effectiveness of case finding and treatment, which are key interests of public health.

Stigma can lead to people experiencing chronic stress which gives rise to maladaptive approaches to coping such as withdrawal and isolation. In certain contexts, the impact of the *meaning* of a disease or condition may create more problems for an individual than the *symptoms* of the disease itself.

HIV/AIDS-related stigma

The two major global viral epidemics of recent decades - HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C - have both been accompanied by epidemics of stigma and discrimination.

The quote below from the US Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS highlights how infectious diseases, such as viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS, have a history of eliciting stigma and affected people are often labeled and excluded from a range of social contexts.

'The panic and uncertainty that accompany epidemic disease may lead to a desperate search for explanations ... Stigmatisation seems to provide a partial (although spurious) answer ... the convenience of having an already despised or suspect

group in the vicinity allows for quick attribution of causality and blame.' (Turner et al. 1989, p. 391)

HIV/AIDS has become one of the most stigmatised diseases of recent times and is often perceived as a threat to the self or one's community. Social disqualification - that is, stigmatisation - is viewed as a method of preserving the physical and moral health of the community against the problems represented by the disease (Gilmore et al. 1994). Often, a disease comes to represent all the 'suffering and evil' in society and people with the disease are positioned as an out-group representing 'societal shortcomings, inadequacies, unmet needs or unrealised expectations' (Gilmore et al. 1994 p. 1346).

The burden of stigma often weighs heaviest on the poorest and most marginalised people in our community and this point reveals the political dimension of stigma, that is, powerful groups can enforce rules onto less powerful groups (Fulton 1999). The early days of the HIV epidemic saw calls from both individuals and social institutions for people living with HIV/AIDS to be quarantined, to be excluded from participating in the work force and other social contexts, and to be identified

as carriers of death and disease (Sontag 1989; Crimp 1987). While gay community political mobilisation helped prevent the worst of these actions from occurring, AIDS-related stigma cost many lives, and still survives.

In 2007 Australia's immigration laws preclude most HIV-positive applicants from obtaining permanent residency in Australia (Korner, 2007). Stigmatisation aims to simultaneously identify and disempower those affected by HIV/AIDS in order to define the 'model citizen', and to protect and preserve social values.

Hepatitis C-related stigma

The stigma and discrimination familiar to many people living with HIV/AIDS is, in some ways, being replayed, this time in the context of hepatitis C where the villains are injecting drug users. Stigmatisation of illicit drug users has been a central tenet of global drug prohibition for almost a century (Levine, 2003). The stigma of illicit drug use taints all people affected by hepatitis C.

Because of the way our society views - and criminalises - specific types of drug use, people are socialised into holding certain beliefs about illicit drug users - and by association people with hepatitis C - and many come to question their value as members of society (Fulton 1999). People with hepatitis C are stereotyped as lacking social

The burden of stigma often weighs heaviest on the poorest and most marginalised people in our community

worth and as a danger to the community because they are likely to spread their negative characteristics to others.

Understanding of social phenomena are reflected in government policy. It has been observed by author Gary Hulse that in Australia hepatitis C policy was slow to develop (Hulse 1997). One reason for this is the view that the virus is largely confined within injecting drug user populations and it was regarded as unlikely that hepatitis C would cross over into mainstream Australian society. Hulse argues that injecting drug users were perceived by the health bureaucracy as disorganised and that they did not constitute a 'community' in the same sense as the gay community which had facilitated a rapid and efficient response during the early years of the HIV epidemic. Hulse points out that power for making and informing public health policy concerning hepatitis C shifted back to senior health bureaucrats and away from giving a role to affected communities (Hulse 1997). Since Hulse wrote his analysis in the mid 1990s, several things have changed; the national and state-based hepatitis councils and drug user organisations have worked hard to reclaim the right of affected communities to represent their interests and to combat structural stigmatisation which endangers the development of relevant policy sensitive to the needs of a diverse population. As well, state government funding of initiatives has increased. Nonetheless, bureaucratic apathy concerning this epidemic remains at the federal level and this has contributed indirectly to hepatitis C-related stigma (Hulse 1997). A history of denial by Federal governments of the existence of this epidemic and those most affected by it has contributed to increasing isolation and stigmatisation, and blame.

Health has become more important than freedom

Increasingly, wealthy societies are making a distinction between 'guilty' and 'innocent' victims of some diseases and epidemics (Herek & Glunt 1988). Graham Scambler (2006), a British sociologist suggests that a series of well-documented changes which has occurred since the early 1970s have had significant impact on how health-related stigma is seen and how notions of blame for personal health problems have been increasing. Scambler describes the significant changes imposed by globalisation of the world economies and the rise of a 'new' regime of capital accumulation and its class relations; changes which profoundly altered nation-states' abilities to regulate their economies. These changes have delivered a culture-ideology of consumerism, and neo-liberal policies of privatisation have been pursued by governments of both the left and the right during this period, particularly in the domain of health. State responsibility for the health and

welfare of its citizens is being divested to the individual and it is not uncommon to hear health ministers today adopt discourses which emphasize the virtue and significance of *personal responsibility* in the maintenance of health. A consumer movement of healthism has emerged in the West during this period whereby individuals are implored to be personally responsible for their health, for example by exercising, attending to diet and ceasing smoking (Crawford, 1980).

The up-shot of these changes is that blame is attached to the shame which defines health-related stigma. Individuals or groups of people whose lifestyle practices are perceived as constituting a personal or community health risk are at best understood as a drain on resources and at worst a threat to civilisation, and often both. If a condition is understood to be the result of an individual's own actions, then those affected are likely to be viewed adversely and discriminated against (Jones et al. 1984). Because injecting and unprotected sex are seen as voluntary behaviours, the community often positions people with hepatitis C and HIV as responsible for their own illness, justifying their exclusion from society's concerns.

Conclusion

To conclude this brief overview, stigma is an important factor in consideration of social and health policy and for clinical practice. To address the impacts of stigma on health, research, policy and practice need to take account of both the disease and the culture-specific aspects of stigma, that is, whose interest's does stigma serve?

Stigmatisation is a socially adaptive process whereby certain groups can assert power by reinforcing specific cultural norms and values. Therefore, efforts to reduce stigma need to be cognizant of the power effects of 'shaming and blaming' and work within this understanding in order to secure improvements in the health and quality of life of affected people.

References

- Ahern, J., Stuber J., & Galea S. (2007). Stigma, discrimination and the health of illicit drug users. *Drug & Alcohol Dependence*, 88, 188-196.
- Crawford, R. (1980). Healthism and the medicalization of everyday life. *International Journal of Health Services*, 10, 365-388.
- Crimp, D. (1987). *AIDS: Cultural analysis, cultural activism*. (Ed) D. Crimp. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press: 3-16.
- Fulton, R. (1999). *The stigma of substance use: a review of the literature*. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada. <http://sano.queer.org/stigma/litrev.htm> [accessed on-line February 8, 2003].
- Gilmore, N. & Somerville, M. A. (1994). Stigmatisation, scapegoating and discrimination in sexually transmitted diseases: overcoming 'them' and 'us'. *Social Science and Medicine*, 39, 1339-1358.
- Goffman, E. (1968). *Stigma. Notes on the management of spoiled identity*. Harmondsworth, England: Penguin.

Herek, G. M. & Glunt, E. K. (1988). An epidemic of stigma: public reactions to AIDS. *American Psychologist*, 43, 886-891.

Hulse, G. K. (1997). Australia's public health response to HIV and HCV: a role for 'affected' communities. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 16, 171-176.

Jones, E. E. (1984). *Social stigma: the psychology of marked relationships*. New York: W. H. Freeman.

Korner, H. (2007). 'If I had my residency I wouldn't worry': Negotiating migration and HIV in Sydney, Australia. *Ethnicity and Health*, 12, 205-225.

Levine, H. G. (2003). Global drug prohibition: Its uses and crises. *The International Journal of Drug Policy*, 14, 145-153.

Malcolm, A., Aggleton, P., Bronfman, M., Galvao, J., Mane, P. & Verrall, J. (1998). HIV-related stigmatization and discrimination: its forms and contexts. *Critical Public Health*, 8, 347-370.

Pittam, J. & Gallois, C. (2000). Malevolence, stigma, and social distance: Maximizing intergroup differences in HIV/AIDS discourse. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 28(1), 24-43.

Scambler, G. (2006). Sociology, social structure and health-related stigma. *Psychology, Health and Medicine*, 11, 288-295.

Sontag, S. (1989). *AIDS and its metaphors*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Turner, C. F., Miller, H. G. & Moses, L. E. (Eds.) (1989). *AIDS: Sexual behavior and intravenous drug use*. Committee on AIDS Research and the Behavioral, Social and Statistical Sciences, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council.

Washington D.C.: National Academy Press.

*Paper presented at NCHSR Consortium Workshop
19, May 30 2007, Cockle Bay, Sydney*

Spring Barbecue!

11am-4pm Sunday,
November 18 2007 at
the Gender Centre,

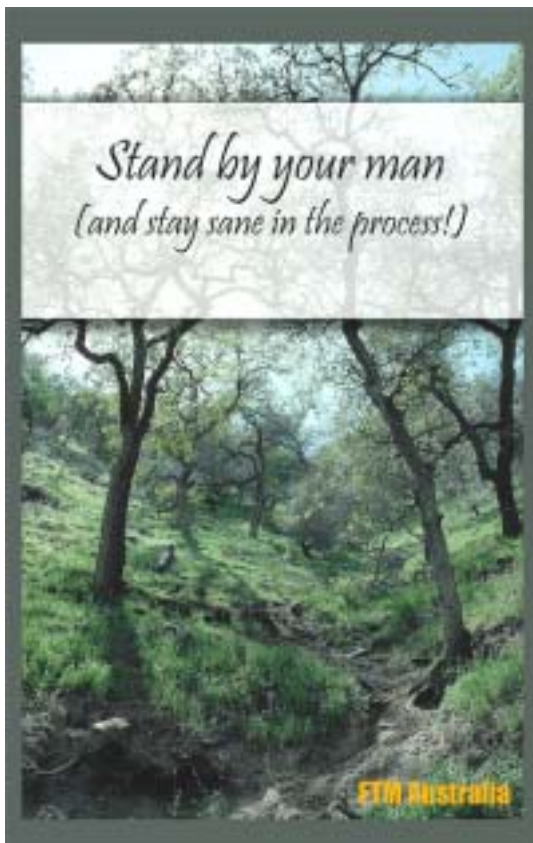


7 Bent
St, Petersham

See
You
There!

Stand by your man (and stay sane in the process!)

an FTMAustralia handbook for partners, family, friends and loved ones



Over 150 pages of personal accounts from partners, family & friends; information (general, contact & support, legal & medical) from people who have "been there".

First published in 2003, this handbook has been republished with new additions for 2007.

Purchase for **AUD\$20.00** from FTM Australia
- incls p/h within Australia
PO Box 488, Glebe NSW 2037
or download an orderform from www.ftmaustralia.org

Publisher: FTMAustralia ©2007
All Rights Reserved.
ISBN: 978-0-6464-7753-4

Once upon a time there was a lonely little girl. Nobody, even her at first, knew that she was a girl. Rose, of course, was born into the body of a boy.

When I first met Rose we were at a Brisbane Seahorse get together in a cafe in West End. She was then more obviously the rough, gruff, severely male-mucho trannie that most of us never were even though we all start out with at least some degree of unwanted masculinity before the women within us comes out. Many T-girls and others have found Rose confronting. This is changing.

Unlike most of us Seahorse girls, Rose was pretty sure she wanted to fully transition through GRS into a totally female life. Her name 'Rose' reflects the elegant femininity her heart craves. The thorns are the pain she has suffered, and continues to suffer, as she progresses in her transformation. The bed of roses she is going for is both the inner fulfilment she increasingly feels as she transitions and the pleasure those of us who are close to her feel as we see her slowly breaking through her rough, tough shell of mucho masculinity into her own womanhood.

Appearance

Rose thinks she is as ugly as sin. She is definitely not! Hormones and mental self-feminisation are both changing her delightfully. Many women of her age, early fifties, look far more rugged, but Rose, who, like all of us, has an extreme feminine image of herself in her heart, finds it hard to see through her fears of ugliness into the way she really is – and is becoming.

Since she has been on hormones her body is changing. Rose is fortunate to have a full head of strong hair so, unlike too many of us girls, she has no need for a wig. Her skin is softening, her breasts are developing (yes, she boasts about them) and, slowly her posture and movement are changing – except when she looses it and reverts to 'Hulk Mode'.

It is obvious to me as both a clinician and as a former dancer and dance teacher, that Rose's body will become as feminine as most genetic women of her age. As she sorts out the external challenges of her life, she will be able to concentrate on more naturally feminising her posture, movement and voice – and her overall self-presentation.

Emotions

Rose, as a man, was sometimes violent. She has been a labourer and is now a working truck driver with the full, if bewildered, knowledge and support of her boss and (perhaps because the boss has said they have to!) of her workmates. The split between her necessary-for-income-

earning male life and her dream of living as the woman she is makes it extra hard for her to keep her cool. Rose is only just beginning to learn to be, and to keep her, cool. Although this is a natural part of her self-feminising process, her 'cooling' is also a part of her rapidly developing emotional maturity. Like all of us, when we learn to think and care about the effects our behaviour has on others we become much nicer people.

Rose's delight in her changes, both physical and social, help her greatly to become more and more demure (though in no way effeminate) and without diminishing her expanding self-possessed independence.

In fact, Rose is now able to appear dressed in public both androgynously and as a woman without fear. She still works in male mode. However, her evermore feminine physical changes are attracting the attention of other truckies on the road. Knowing Rose, I doubt there is a truckie in Australia who would dare to abuse her – at least not to her face.

Progress

Watching Rose progress is a treat. It is hard for her. Her journey is longer than it is for most of us whether we are part-timers or full-timers (crossdressers or transsexuals – for want of far better words!). Rose, like so of us many, has lost her marriage and her relationships with her somewhat dysfunctional family are often difficult. But behind all her relationships with her family is often a shared, if crippled, but real and enduring love.

Rose thinks she is dumb because she has had little formal education. This is rubbish though we can all understand her feelings. Rose is far more intelligent than average and she plans to use her intelligence. First she has created what she calls the *Rose Thornton Foundation*. Soon she will establish her **Trantel** or Transgender Motel, This is already a place where girls like us, full and part time, can go to learn the arts and skills of being the women we are by developing our posture, movement, voices, dress sense, make up skills, lifestyles and so on so that we can be and pass as ourselves as naturally as possible when we are out in the real world.

Part timers will also be helped to develop lifestyles in which they can comfortably switch their gender presentations with minimal practical and emotional fuss and stress. These 'switching' skills are often necessarily developed, at least to some degree, by T-girls on the way to full transition.

Most T-girls have very small incomes. Liaising with Centrelink has enabled the beginnings of a plan that will

make possible short to medium term residence for people who can get rent relief and other benefits.

Although being ourselves as gender diverse people is always painful in our world, Rose wants to help other T-girls to at least reduce the levels of pain she has suffered. Transition, she says, is no bed of roses! However the uniquely right end result for every T-girl is.

I am recording Rose's story as she progresses as a 'Tranny Truckie' and we hope to use her story to give

hope and confidence to other girls-like-us. Knowing Rose, as it is with so many other girls-like-us, is sometimes a real pain – and so often a real delight. In spite of our obvious differences we have many things in common.

Watching her grow is fascinating. Her journey is long and hard and but her story will be an inspiration to so many who will be where she has been.

Jennifer Susan Lovelace

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.

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.

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.

BEAUTY THERAPIST

G.L.B.T. Friendly

Fully qualified for all your Beauty needs.

-all waxing - tints - make-up - facials -- massage - - reflexology -- manicures - pedicures - aromatherapy - ear piercing **-Mobile service available**

Servicing Canberra and surrounding areas

Phone Simone

0414 517 376

I met Grace at the Blackmarket Nightclub in the summer of 2000.

I was instantly attracted to her. She was pretty (even in her boy drag), funny and clever. I picked up on her feminine energy straight away and it didn't take me long to realise that she was MTF. I define myself as lesbian with a twist of bi, so the fact that she was transsexual wasn't really an issue for me. I had a close friend who had transitioned and undergone SRS, so I was reasonably au fait with the issues involved in having a trans partner.

One thing led to another and Grace and I became lovers and moved in together in early 2001. Grace transitioned shortly after this, and as our relationship deepened, we realised that one of our main goals as a couple was to save up to travel to Thailand so that Grace could have SRS. We did our homework and decided that Dr Sanguan was the right surgeon for Grace, and we started our savings plan!

In 2005, with the surgery booked for October, we decided to get married. There were several different reasons behind this decision. We loved each other, and wanted to spend the rest of our lives together.

We felt we had the right to be married if we chose, even though we both identified as women, and we were happy to exploit the loophole in the law that allowed us to marry legally. We also recognised that some of the legal rights enjoyed by married people were really important to a couple going overseas for surgery.

If anything happened on the trip, or during the surgery, it was really important that I should be Grace's legal next of kin. As her partner, I needed to be able to make any medical decisions for her if there were any complications.

As her legal wife, I would be able to do that. We were also aware that because she was travelling on a female interim passport, but prior to surgery would still have male genitalia, if we encountered any problems with paranoid immigration officers, I would be able to advocate for her and obtain legal advice on her behalf.

So for all these very good reasons, we married, in a civil ceremony at the Registry Office in Sydney. We made the decision to have a small private ceremony, because we intended to wait to have a big formal wedding and party, until other same sex couples had the same right to marry.

Polare page 20

October-December 2007

In October 2005, we travelled to Phuket and Grace underwent SRS. Mercifully, we didn't encounter any problems with customs and immigration.

And Grace came through the surgery with flying colours.

We returned to Oz in Nov 2005. The problems began when Grace approached the Passport Office to swap over her interim female passport for a ten-year passport. The Passport Office not only refused to provide her with a new passport, on the grounds that she was married, but also illegally destroyed her still valid interim passport.

This meant that Grace was without travel documents of any kind.

This was a huge problem for us as a couple as we had planned several overseas trips for 2006.

We were planning to return to Thailand for Grace to undergo breast augmentation surgery, and also to support our good friend Anna during her scheduled SRS procedure.

We had also planned an extensive working holiday together around Europe.

The cancellation of these plans caused a lot of distress and inconvenience for both of us.



Grace

We decided to fight the Government's decision to deny Grace a passport on the grounds of her marital status. We both firmly believe that married transsexual women should not have to choose between their spouses and having their gender recognised. We loved each other and wished to remain married, and we wanted Grace to be able to enjoy the same rights as other Australian citizens to travel safely on a passport which reflected her correct gender and we also wanted to strike a blow for other same sex couples.

If we could create an anomaly in the law, by becoming a legally recognised same sex couple, then hopefully other same sex couples would be able to use this anomaly

to fight the laws which unfairly deny them the right to marry, and all the benefits which go with marriage. We knew that it would not be easy, because the current Government is so bigoted towards transpeople and same sex couples.

We also knew that it would mean exposing ourselves to media interest and having our private lives in the public domain.

For Grace it would mean continuing to be out and active as a transperson. For both of us it would mean potentially opening ourselves up to homophobia and transphobia but we both believed it was a cause worth fighting for.

With the assistance of the Inner City Legal Centre, and barrister David Shoebridge, (who did marvellous pro bono work for us) we took on the Passport Office and Minister Downer.

If you have read Grace's half of the article you will know that the legal battle to obtain her rightful female passport has taken two years. Those two years have taken their toll on us as a couple. I have had to travel on several occasions knowing that Grace couldn't come with me. We have been unable to travel to support friends undergoing SRS in other countries.

But it has been worth it! Grace has finally obtained an order from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal ordering the Passport Office to issue her with a female passport!

I would strongly urge other married couples (where one partner has undergone SRS) to fight for their right for a passport in their proper gender. This discrimination has got to stop.

The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project can be contacted on (02) 9206 2116 or 1800 063 060

PLEASE NOTE!

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

Don't Forget!

The gender Centre has moved from 75 Morgan Street to 7 Bent Street, Petersham

\$50 OFF
FIRST VISIT

www.permanence.com.au

Bankstown Shop P 013, Centro Bankstown North Terrace Bankstown NSW 2200 Phone 9793 2155	Drummoyne 170 Victoria Road Drummoyne NSW 2047 Phone 9719 1391	City Dymocks Building Suite 5, Level 3 428 George St, Sydney NSW 2000 Phone 9221 8594
--	--	--

PERMANENCE
The permanent hair removal specialists

PERMANENCE
100%
GUARANTEE

Hep C factsheets: blood & organ donation



Safety of the blood supply

Blood donation processes

The Commonwealth Senate inquiry into hepatitis C and the blood supply

Blood Bank litigation

Becoming an organ donor

Information and support services

Safety of the blood supply

Between 5-10% of people in Australia with hepatitis C are believed to have contracted it through blood transfusion. Blood banks in Australia have been screening donated blood for hepatitis C antibodies since 1990.

Nowadays, all Australian blood banks implement a more rigorous process of screening all potential blood donors and testing all donated blood. This reduces the risk of acquiring hepatitis C from donated blood to less than one in three million. In other countries the risk of acquiring hepatitis C from blood products and medical procedures may be significantly different from the risk in Australia.¹

Blood donation processes

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service interviews all potential blood donors for hepatitis C risks prior to donation and all donated blood is tested.

Generally, anyone who is aged between 16 and 70 years old, weighs at least 50kg, is in good health and meets the questionnaire guidelines, can donate blood. **People with hepatitis C must not donate blood.**

All people donating blood must complete a comprehensive questionnaire. This includes questions about injecting drug use, tattoos, needlestick injuries, blood transfusions, close contact with a person with hepatitis, certain medical procedures, and time spent in prison.

On the basis of this questionnaire, blood donation may be deferred for 6 to 12 months or indefinitely, depending on individual risk factors).

Blood donations are tested for syphilis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV-1 and -2, HTLV-I and II (human T cell lymphotropic virus) and blood group.

Donated blood is also screened for the hepatitis C virus by using antibody testing and nucleic acid testing (PCR). NAT/PCR testing detects the presence of the virus itself rather than antibodies to the virus.

The window period (the period between infection and when evidence of the infection might show up in a blood test) for the antibody test is 66 days. The window period for antibody plus NAT testing is 7 days. Since the introduction of dual testing in June 2000 there have been no known hepatitis C infections from the Australian blood supply.

For more information about how to become a blood donor, making an appointment to donate, and for medical enquiries about your eligibility to give blood, phone the National Donor Information Line on 13 14 95.

The Commonwealth Senate inquiry into hepatitis C and the blood supply

The Australian Senate Community Affairs References Committee held an inquiry into hepatitis C and the blood supply in 2004. The report from this inquiry, titled "Hepatitis C and the blood supply in Australia", was published in June 2004.

The report and recommendations from the inquiry can be found on the Senate website: http://www.apb.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/completed_inquiries/2002-04/hepc/index.htm

Alternatively a copy can be requested from the Department of the Senate: Phone 02 6277 3515 or email community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Blood Bank litigation

People who contracted hepatitis C within NSW through donated blood and who would like more information about litigation against the blood bank can contact:

- The Law Society of NSW - who have a reference list of solicitors who may be able to advise people on litigation. Phone 02 9926 0333 or visit their website www.lawsociety.com.au
- Law Access for free legal information. Phone 1300 888 529, or visit their website www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au
- a community legal centre
- a private solicitor.

Becoming an organ donor

People with hepatitis C are able to choose to donate their liver. These would be used for transplantation in the case of another person that already has hepatitis C.

Transplanting the liver of a hepatitis C positive person who has died into another person who already has hepatitis C makes good sense for those who are in need of an urgent life saving transplant. The transplanted liver would need to be in a reasonably healthy condition (e.g. no cirrhosis) and there would need to be no other healthy livers available at that time from hepatitis C negative donors.

Having hepatitis C does not negatively affect a persons' eligibility in receiving a transplanted liver from a hepatitis C negative donor.

LifeLink is the Organ Donation Network (NSW/ACT) which is a part of the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. It is responsible for administrative coordination of all organ donations that take place in NSW/ACT.

The Organ Donation Network encourages everyone to register as an organ donor regardless of a person's health status or hepatitis C status. All organs and organ donors are rigorously screened at the time a donation is possible to ensure that an appropriate donation is carried out which reduces the risk of infection or complications for the recipient.

People who wish to register as a donor do not need to assess their own suitability as a donor because this is routinely done at the time a donation is able to occur.

People seeking more information about becoming an organ donor can contact the Organ Donation Network on: Phone 02 9229 4003 (general enquiries) or 1800 777 203 (to register as an organ donor) or visit www.organ.redcross.org.au

Information and support services

The NSW Hep C Helpline offers information, support and referrals for all people affected by hepatitis C, including general community and health care workers. The Hep C Helpline can be contacted on 02 9332 1599 (Sydney callers) or 1800 803 990 (other NSW callers).

Traids is a NSW state-wide counselling, support, information and advocacy service for people living with medically acquired hepatitis C and HIV. Traids can be contacted on 02 9843 3143.

The Tainted Blood Network is a community group that can offer support, advice, legal information and advocacy for people who have medically acquired hepatitis C or HIV. They can be contacted on 02 9799 3810 or www.taintedbloodnetwork.com

References

- 1 ARCBS, MedLink, Volume 6, Number 1, April 2003.
- 2 Seed CR, et al. (2002) Assessing the accuracy of three viral risk models in predicting the outcome of implementing HIV and NCV NAT donor screening in Australia and the implications for HBV NAT. *Transfusion* 42:1365-72.

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. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hep C factsheets: Antibody testing



Hepatitis C
Council of NSW

What are antibodies?

What do antibodies do?

Are antibodies killer cells?

Why don't macrophages destroy HCV?

How do the antibody tests work?

What is the 'window period'?

Recommended reading

As well as the passive function of sticking to viruses, some antibodies trigger a series of events which result in inflammation of the area around a cell area, making it generally inhospitable to bacteria and viruses.

Are antibodies killer cells?

No, but cruising around in our bloodstream, are 'killer' cells called macrophages. When they bump into a cell or substance in the bloodstream, they need some kind of signal to determine whether they should engulf and destroy it - or whether it's a part of the body. When a foreign body in the bloodstream has antibodies stuck to it, the killer cells take it as a signal that it is something to be destroyed.

What are antibodies?

Antibodies are our main form of defence in the bloodstream. They are a form of protein that is produced in response to anything foreign that gets into our bloodstream - such as viruses, bacteria, or vaccines.

Antibodies are mostly limited to the humeral spaces - an almost medieval term for body fluids which are outside the actual cells of the body. These include blood, milk and other body fluids.

What do antibodies do?

Basically antibodies stick to anything foreign that they find. The processes involved in a virus entering a body cell are complex and having big globs of protein (antibody) hanging off a virus can be enough to block their attempted entry to cells.

This is particularly true if there are a lot of antibodies around - and if they recognise different parts of a virus and cover the surface of it.

Why don't macrophages destroy HCV?

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a master of disguise. As it reproduces, it often changes its appearance ever so slightly. It's a process called mutation and means the virus confuses our HCV antibodies and macrophages, remaining one step ahead of them. Although we quickly eradicate lots of hep C virus once they're identified, there are always others which have mutated, are not recognised as effectively and survive.

How do the HCV antibody tests work?

HCV antibody tests are used to see if a person has hepatitis C (also called hep C). Doctors commonly use this test to determine if their patients have come into contact with HCV.

If the test comes back positive, it means that HCV antibodies were found - proof that the virus must have entered the body at some point in time.



If people are able to clear the virus, they still keep their antibodies. A positive antibody test doesn't always mean someone has the virus, although in most cases the person does have it.

To confirm whether a person has hep C or not, a PCR test is usually performed. These tests look for presence of the actual hep C virus.

What is the 'window period'?

Once a virus enters the body it takes a period of time before antibodies are produced. Thus, an antibody test carried out too soon following infection might return a false negative result.

With HCV, it takes up to six months to be sure the antibody test will return an accurate result and this is called the HCV antibody window period.

The window period for confirming a hep C diagnosis has been reduced dramatically following introduction of HCV RNA (often called PCR) testing. The window period for these tests is four weeks.

Recommended reading

Test counselling (factsheet)

PCR availability (factsheet)

PCR and HCV transmission (factsheet)

Preparing for Testing (booklet)

Hepatitis C: What you need to know (booklet)

***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**

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

SAGE - campaigning for your rights!



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

211 Wyee Rd Wyee 2259. Tel: (02) 43572221.
Email: aie101@bigpond.net.au

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

with:
**The Gentronics MC160A
Precision Blend / Galvanic & Multi Probe
Epilators from the USA.**

Fully Trained and Certified Electrologists
NSW Health Certified Skin Penetration Certified



*For further details and prices, contact
Ainsley Israel or Shirley Hogue JP NSW on:
02 43 572221 or 0412-637726.*

Midmark M9 Autoclave Sterilisation used in this salon.

Justice of the Peace on site for your assistance

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) 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

Phone:(02) 4721 5024

Mobile: 0439 481 008

Fax: (02) 4721 5922

Email: outsidein@pnc.com.au

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

Polare page 26

October-December 2007



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

<p>problems?</p> <p>You can write to The Counsellor The Gender Centre PO Box 266 Petersham NSW 2049</p>	<p>questions?</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>concerns?</p> <p>Hours 9am - 5pm Monday and Tuesday only Email: counsellortgc@bigpond.com.au Gaye 9569 2366</p>
--	---	---

 <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NSW Seahorse Society</p> <p>THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW INC PO BOX 168 WESTGATE NSW 2048</p> <p>Call us on 0423.125.860 and our website is: www.seahorsesoc.org Email: crossdress@seahorsesoc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>“crossdress with dignity”</u></p>
---	--

Central Coast 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 Activities.** 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,

Central Coast Transgender Support Group

The CCTSG 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

IRAN STATES POSITION OF TOLERANCE FOR TRANSEXUALS

Following a statement by the President of Iran that Iran has no homosexuals it has been pointed out that transsexuals are tolerated in Iran and there are more gender reassignment operations carried out in Iran than in any other country except for Thailand. According to official statistics there are between 15,000 and 20,000 transsexuals (unofficial figures put the number closer to 150,000). Transsexuality in Iran is considered an illness with a cure. The Government provides grants for gender reassignment operations and further funding for hormone therapy.

VIOLENCE AGAINST GLBT BRINGS OUT THE POLITICIANS

An increase in violent crime against GLBT members of the community in the Oxford Street area of Sydney has brought the politicians out to take a look at the situation. Sydney's Lord Mayor, Clover Moore accompanied the Labor candidate for Wentworth, George Newhouse, a local drag queen named Maxi Shield and the Poolic Minister, David Campbell visited the clubs and back streets of the area, looking for indications of homophobic violence.

There have been nine reported assaults related to homophobia this year, compared to two in 2006.

The Sydney Morning Herald has reported a move by the GLBT community to create its own security force and the GenQ Street Angels are looking for volunteers with police, military or security experience.

Maxi Shield, who has been performing in the area for ten years said she thought "outsiders" were to

blame, as they think "it is one big freak show".

IRELAND CLOSE TO COMING IN OUT OF THE COLD

Ireland, one of the last three holdouts against recognition of gender-reassigned transgenders in the European Union may be close to changing their laws to conform with the rest of the EU. A case brought by Dr Lydia Foy against the Irish Registrar General was to have been decided in September but now a ruling is expected in October. Irish university students are calling for recognition of the transgendered, following the passing of the ECHR Act in 2003, bringing Ireland in line with the European Convention on Human Rights.

LANDMARK LAW FOR GLBT DILUTED IN COMMITTEE

A United States federal law to prohibit discrimination against gays, lesbians and transgenders has been amended in committee to remove transgenders from the Act, against heavy opposition from civil rights activists of all persuasions.

Representative Barney Frank, who is himself openly gay, offered a version of the bill that banned job discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals but removed protection for those with gender identity issues, on the grounds that the watered-down version might pass but the full version would not.

The watered-down version will go the full House for a vote on 24 October but the Senate is unlikely to consider the measure this year.

Among activists the general feeling is that "no group should be left behind" simply as a matter of expediency.

The Vice-President of the Human Rights Campaign, David Smith, said

"We are going to retriplate our efforts to get an inclusive bill and get it to a President who will sign it".

The bill has been awaiting debate for ten years, under a Republican controlled Congress.

The proposed law is known as ENDA (Employment Anti-Discrimination Act).

JEFF SHAW STILL AN ADVOCATE FOR THE OPPRESSED

Jeff Shaw, former Supreme Court Judge in NSW and a former NSW Attorney General has set up a firm called The People's Solicitors, and will continue his efforts to help the marginalised in society by representing them for low or no fees, depending on the client's ability to pay, the merit of their case and the final outcome.

Shaw is responsible for a number of significant reforms in NSW law, including the 1999 Property (Relationships) Legislation Amendment Act which allowed de facto couples to be included in the Government definition of "domestic relationships". This led to improved rights for gay and lesbian couples in a number of areas including inheritance and compensation.

As early as 1996 Shaw said in Parliament that transgender was a matter of gender identity and not sexual preference.

"I am happy dealing with all kinds of people," said Shaw, "cab drivers, transgenders, immigrants, refugees... everyday people who sometimes get into trouble."

MIANNE BAGGER ACCEPTED INTO LADIES EUROPEAN GOLF TOUR

Transgender golfer, Mianne Bagger, born in Denmark but now Australian

is the first transgendered golfer to qualify for the Ladies European Tour.

In March Bagger was the first transgender to play in a professional tournament, the Australian Open.

This year the Ladies European Tour dropped its rule that players must be "female at birth", putting them in line with International Olympic Committee rules.

GEORGINA COULD HAVE BEEN HER OWN GRANDMA

Georgina Beyer, the world's first openly transgendered member of Parliament, was offered a small part in the movie to be made of her life ... playing her own grandmother!

The film is intended for production in 2008 and starts with Beyer being pack-raped in Sydney in the 1970s.

The film is to be made by New Zealander Roger Simpson, under the aegis of Australian film company Lone Hand. The script was written by Sally Irwin, Roger Simpson's partner and has been under development for several years.

Asked who might portray her in the movie, Beyer suggested club entertainer Mika, but also said her life might be presented by more than one person and more than one gender.

She added that she did not want to see herself represented by an American "with a half-formed accent, like Meryl Streep playing Lindy Chamberlain."

She also said "I hope it will make New Zealand feel proud of me."

SYDNEY DOCTOR REFUSED ENTRY TO LESBIAN MEETING

Dr Tracie O'Keefe, a transgendered psychotherapist was excluded from a lesbian function in Adelaide

because, according to one of the organisers, "her presence would affect the intimacy, level of trust and discussion that would take place."

McCaig said the Adelaide Hills meeting was intended to be a private gathering of friends although advertising material was sent out to around 200 women who were in turn asked to pass on the details "with discretion".

Evidence was heard before the Equal Opportunity Tribunal that Dr O'Keefe's partner, Katrina Fox, received one of the notices but when she contacted the organisers of Sappho's Party, she was told that Doctor O'Keefe would not be allowed to attend.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP IN SURRY HILLS

The Woimen's and Girls' Emergency Centre in Surry Hills, Sydney, has launched a transgender support group. The Centre is a daily drop-in service for homeless women.

Julia Phillips, case worker at the Centre, said that the transgendered women concerned have been discriminated against by other services. The idea is to provide a space for transgendered women in order to identify, discuss and address the problems facing these marginalised women.

The group has been funded by the City of Sydney Council and will meet every two weeks at 361 Riley Street, Surry Hills.

Contact number is 9360 5388 or email tsgwagec@yahoo.com.au

STATISTICS FOR LEGAL DISCRIMINATION SHOW USA HAS LONG WAY TO GO

In the United States anti-discrimination law is by and large State law. It is still legal in thirty-one

of the fifty States to fire someone for being gay, lesbian or bisexual. It is legal in thirty-nine States to fire someone for being transgendered.

In Australia it is necessary to pretend the firing (or non-hiring) is due to some other reason, with the result that we are developing more imaginative and creative employers.

CHERRIE ARRIVES! GREAT NEW MAGAZINE FOR NOT-SO-STRAIGHT GIRLS

Cherrie's first issue, for November 2007, has arrived and looks as if it should be very popular with the gender variant and sexually diverse.

Edited by Katrina Fox, the first issue carries articles such as "Fagbug Girl" which deals with an anti-homophobia campaign in the USA, "Pick Your



Katrina Fox

Battle" which allows queer indigenous women to speak out about the discrimination they have experienced, an exclusive interview with singer-songwriter Missy Higgins and an article on the ethics of "outing" those who prefer to live in a 'glass' closet, i.e. they are known to be queer but stay in the closet anyway.

There will also be regular features on fashion, activism, music, film/dvd, sex and astrology and other subjects.

This is the second review of this book I have done. The first was for a journal for therapists but for *Polare* readers I want to focus on pleasure – sexual pleasure. I can hear the gasps by some readers at the very mention of *sexual pleasure*. “But we are oppressed; socially disadvantaged and we carry the cross of gender dysphoria around with us on our backs – how can we possibly think of sexual pleasure?”

Well, get over it. If you have genitals, you can experience sexual pleasure and even if you don't have genitals you can still experience sexual pleasure. Carrellas in her book teaches you how to use your whole body and mind in your sexually pleasurable experiences, not only on a physical but also a



Tracie O'Keefe

metaphysical and spiritual plane. She is a teacher of tantric sex. And from one who is trans, had an adult life of profound sexual experiences, and works as a sex therapist; I can tell she is good - real good.

Her book is very easy to read, guides you step by step through self and other pleasuring. It totally demystifies tantra, gives you lots of exercises to practise with including masturbation for fun. It talks about hetero, gay, singles, couples, and group sex in a most encouraging and practical way. In the later part of the book she talks about crossing BDSM with tantric practices, making both particularly rewarding when brought together.

Since the foreword is by Annie Sprinkle, many of you will know that Carrellas comes from the school of sexual practices and experience and not from the authority of the wizard behind the curtain. Not only that, Carrellas is the partner of Kate Bornstein, the American trans performer and gender provocateur. It seems Carrellas comes to Australia fairly often with a season ticket, route map and a well trodden path to heightened and extended orgasms. Is it not nice to know the teacher practises her own medicine?

Of course, like sailing lessons you can really take what you like from this book. Having a easy nice ride on calm waters or challenging the wave and high-end arousal. But if you take nothing from it, you're already dead. If you have spent a fortune on your penis, vagina, face, breasts or chest, do yourself a favour and spend a little more on this owner's manual for sexual pleasure.

Urban Tantra: Sacred Sex for the Twenty First Century.

Barbara Carrellas

Published by Celestial Arts, USA 2007

ISBN 1587612909

Reviewed by Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH Sex Therapist

NOTE!

The NSW Gender Centre has moved from 75 Morgan Street, Petersham :

to

7 Bent Street, Petersham

DO YOU WANT TO TALK LIKE THE MAN YOU ARE?

Prince of Wales Hospital is interested in running a voice therapy programme for female to male transgenders. We need four to six takers for the course to be viable. If you are interested, please contact Liz on 9569 2366 or email

[*casemanagement@gendercentre.org.au*](mailto:casemanagement@gendercentre.org.au)

Transgender Rights:Reviewed by **Tracie O'Keefe**

They say "knowledge is power" but simple acquisition of knowledge does not bring power, it is just the collection of another commodity. Discourse is what defines a civilised debate and this book has plenty of discourse. It has been fifteen years since the bomb dropped and the Internet connected a world wide web of brilliantly articulate transpeople forming and accelerating the transgender rights debate; and what a fifteen years! Sure, the fight's been going on longer but the Internet was like the first rocket into space: suddenly trans people could see each other across the globe.

This book gives voices to many of the heroes and thinkers such as Phyllis Randolph Frye, Dallas Denny, Judith Butler and others who stood up and challenged the status quo by challenging within and without the gender community. Much has been achieved and often our American brothers, sisters, 'bristers' and 'sothers' were at the forefront of the thinking and experimenting with gender fluidity and sex self-differentiation. You might not agree with all the thinking in this book but it may provoke you into discomfort with your preconceived ideas of sex, gender and sexuality identity.

There is still much to do in gaining rights for the less polarised sex and gender identified and this book will help you identify the areas in which laws need to change and soil restructuring needs to grow.

Trans issues have turned the world inside out, leaving Adam and Eve far from alone in the Garden of Eden and this book will not only help the novice to trans politics but also make seasoned trans campaigners take a fresh look at their liberation strategies.

Sure, America can be a scary place. They have their own wildly differing issues with evangelical bigots but it is interesting how, issue by issue, the American campaigners are seeking to redress trans inequality. If you're a trans person, sociologist, psychologist or psychiatrist, read this book because it will educate you to know more than you think you know about trans rights. And remember the old saying, "All it takes for evil to take over the world is for good people to do nothing." Oh... and if you teach trans theory and this book is not on order... resign.

Transgender Rights**Editors: Paisley Currah, Richard M. Juang and Shannon****Price Minter****Published by University of Minnesota Press, 2006.****Reviewed by Tracie O'Keefe*****Male Bodies Women's Souls:
Personal Narratives of Thailand's
Transgendered Youth***Reviewed by **Tracie O'Keefe**

This is an interesting book of some of Thailand's university students' experiences of being as *sao braphet song* or what is sometimes described by Westerners as *katoey*, or Thailand's Lady Boys. These first-person narratives are illuminating to Western ignorance of Thailand's gender constructs and how non-normative males with female-type behaviours fit into Thai social, family and personal constructs.

The whole book is really structured like someone's post-graduate thesis and the stories themselves are not the main part of the book; instead its mass is taken up by the researchers' discourse around the stories. This, however, is forgivable since their ethnographic logic and exploration is handled with reasonable sensitivity and logic, even though it produces stories of university trans students whose middle-class views can at times obscure many of the realities that face sex- and gender-variant males in Thai society.

Where the book makes research headway is that the stories show the linguistic differentiation between the identities of *kathoey* (queer), *sao braphet song* (boy with female soul) and *gay* (men-identified-men who sleep with men). These interpretations become fluid according to region, subjective interpretation and the shifting emergence of Thailand's gay liberation awareness. It seems that effeminate males or males who have less than macho identities make a space for themselves in this society as non-gay female-souled boys who generally expect to fall in love with heterosexual-type men.

These comments, however, are insufficient to cover the ideologies and pragmatics that accompany the semantic disclosure in these stories. The researchers wisely acknowledge the limitations of objectifications of researchers seeking to distill typology from cultural disclosures that are very different from those we can understand through the English language.

I do take issue with the researchers' broad use of the word 'transgender' to describe these experiences which at times are plainly no such thing.

Since Thailand is ninety-five per cent Buddhist, there seem to be enormous pressures within the psyche of the storytellers not to disappoint their parents and to subjugate their own desires for female identities in order to conform.

Issue Seventy-three

Also there is the concept of karma to consider, with some of the storytellers saying that they may be kathoey for the bad deeds they had committed in their last life. What is also surprising is the sheer number of saobraphet song and one is left with the deep suspicion that if being gay was more acceptable, many of these lady boys might embrace more male-identified identities, although I am aware that this might be an arrogant Western comment to make.

This is book for the seriously-minded sex and gender diversity student and a useful addition to an academic bookshelf. Its observations are closer to the anthropological works of Margaret Mead than the psychiatric works of Freud or even the endocrinological studies of Louis Gooren. What it is, however, is another nail in the coffin of solely pathologising the medical model of transsexualism.

Male Bodies Women's Souls: Personal Narratives of Thailand's Transgendered Youth
By LeeRay Costa & Andrew Matzner
Published by the Haworth Press, New York
2007

Reviewed by Tracie O'Keefe

The Royal Prince Alfred Sexual Health Clinic is sympathetic and well informed on transgender matters. If you want to contact the Clinic to help with their research or to deal with your own issues call 9515 3131

PLEASE NOTE:

The email address for Resources and Polare is now:

resources@gendercentre.org.au

It is a good idea to put "Polare" in the subject somewhere as I get a lot of spam, and any message which starts off "Hey dude" or similar will not be given much attention.

Polare page 34

October-December 2007

Queer Out West
89.3 FM 2GLF

Community Radio

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

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

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



So join Joe,
Suze, Matt
every

Paul, Beverly,
and Kathy

Monday night from
10.00pm until midnight.

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

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

**Miss Beverly Buttercup via:
email:**

beverlybuttercup@hotmail.com

Fax: (02) 9605.3252

or write to:

PO Box 3357 Liverpool, NSW 2170

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

email: queeroutwest@hotmail.com

**phone: (02) 9822 8893 (10pm-
midnight only)**

Anybody wishing to join a social club for meeting, friendship or simply for communication with those 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

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 in the Reception Area of 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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Young and Transgender? 20-35 years?

Whether you're a verified gender outlaw or just gender questioning and want to find some like-minded travellers ... come along, trade questions, answers, thoughts and support.....

First Monday of each month from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at the Gender Centre, 75 Morgan Street, Petersham [2 April, 7 May, 4 June] For more information call Dash on 9569 2366



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

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

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
 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
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: 7061734507
 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

Shane Warren
 - clinical counselling & coaching -
Changing lives through simple solutions!
 ...clinics in...
 Sydney - Melbourne -
 Canberra - Brisbane -
 Toowoomba - Gold Coast
 0418 726 880 or 02 9283 6983
www.ShaneWarren.com

Visions Synergy Associates
 CPA & Registered Tax Agent
 Phone 02 92618980 Mobile 0402 488 888 Lewis Lam
 First Consultation Free
 Individual tax returns Fast company setup
 All types of Business Returns Fast business setup
 ABN/GST/TFN registrations Quarterly GST
 Small business support Bookkeeping and accounting packages
 Suite 23, 104 Bathurst St., Sydney, NSW. 2000 www.visionssynergy.com.au

Laser Hair Removal
 Face from just \$70.00 (5 minute treatment)
 Most affordable in Sydney
 Over ten years experience serving the transgender community of Sydney
 Book in today for a free consultation
 Edgecliff Clinic 9328 7111
 Bondi Junction 9389 3332
 Parramatta Clinic 9893 9996

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

To Place an Advertisement for Goods and Services in Polare:
 Please contact the Editor of *Polare*:
resourcestgc@bigpond.com 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.

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

<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.glcsnsw.org.au/>

2010 - TWENTY10/GLBT YOUTH SUPPORT

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

Web page: 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

<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

ACON-WESTERNSYDNEY

6 Darcy Road,

Wentworthville, 2145

Tel: (02) 9204 2400

Fax: (02) 9891 2088

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; email

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

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 9204 2400

Fax: 9891 2088

csn-westsyd@acon.org.au

6 Darcy Rd, Wentworthville, 2145

PO Box 284, Westmead, 2145

Hunter

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4927 6808\Fax 4927 6485

hunter@acon.org.au

129 Maitland Road, Islington, 2296

PO Box 220, Islington, 2296

MacKillop Centre - Hunter

Training and development opportunities for PLWHA

Tel: 4968 8788

Illawarra

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4226 1163

Fax: 4226 9838

illawarra@acon.org.au

47 Kenny St, Wollongong, 2500

POB 1073, Wollongong 2500

Mid North Coast

Outreach project: by appointment

Tel: 6584 0943

Fax: 6583 3810

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

Issue Seventy-three

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

www.foley.org

FTMAustralia(MTRA)

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

PO Box 488, Glebe, NSW, 2037
www.ftmaustralia.org
mail@ftmaustralia.org

HIV AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

For HIV positive IDUs and their friends. Meets on Wednesdays. Contact Sandra or Tony at NUAU. 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 deplures all forms of prejudice, discrimination and oppression - and seeks to share God's unconditional love and acceptance of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, race or gender.

96 Crystal Street, Petersham 2049

Phone: (02) 9569.5122

Fax: (02) 9569.5144

Worship Times:

Sundays 10.00 am & 7.30 pm

mcc@eagles.bbs.net.au

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

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

ACON-Hunter office on the last Wednesday of every month from 7pm to 9pm.

Tel: (02) 4927 6808 (ask for Cath)
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

NORTHAIDS

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

NEWCASTLE SWOP

SWOP at Newcastle has a Mobile Sexual Health Team

0249 276 808
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

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

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

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
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

(SWOP) SEX WORKERS OUTREACH TRANSGENDER SUPPORT PROJECT

Provides confidential services for trannies in sex work within NSW. 69 Abercrombie Street

Chippendale NSW

PO Box 1354

Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Tel: (02) 9319.4866

Fax: (02) 9310.4262

info@swop.org.au

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

0249 276 808

SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

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

PO Box 204 Broadway NSW 2007

Tel: (02) 9585.2811 <http://www.bisexualnetwork.com.au>

sbn-admin@yahoo.com

<http://sbn.bi.org>

SYDNEY BISEXUAL PAGANS

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

PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012

SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

Welcomes FTM Men.

PO Box 2064, Boronia Park, 2111

Tel: 9879.4979 (Paul Whyte)

paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au

SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

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

Level 3, Nightingale Wing,

Sydney Hospital, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW, 2000.

Tel: (02) 9382 7440 or freecall

from outside Sydney 1800 451 624

(8.30am-5.00pm) Fax: (02) 9832

Directory Assistance

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
gls@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.

Issue Seventy-three

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

(SQWISI) 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.

Transbridge Support, PO Box 3572, Hermit Park, QLD 4812

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

0406 916 788

email: transbridge@mail.com

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-SEXUALHEALTH

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

17 Phillips Street, Kensington,

SA. 5068 Tel: (08) 8431 5177

Fax: (08) 8364 2389

(SATS) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRANSSEXUALSUPPORT GROUP

A support group for transsexuals who have changed or are about to change their gender role and 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 transexed people. It meet monthly to support people who are in the process of gender/sex affirmation (transitioning or transitioned).

PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Tel: (03) 9517 1237

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

PROSTITUTESCOLLECTIVE 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

CHAMELEONSOCIETY

Provides support to crossdressers, their relatives and friends.

PO Box 367,

Victoria Park WA 6979

Tel: 0418 908839 (8pm-10pm)

Email: chameleonswa@email.com

www.chameleonswa.com

GENDER-Q

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

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

Tel: 9228 0354

www.freedom.org.au

email: info@freedom.org.au

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

See International listings on p.40

MAGENTA

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

Tel: 08. 9328 1387

Fax: 08. 9227 9606

TRANSCOMMUNITYWA

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

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

TRANSWEST: THE TRANSGENDER ASSOCIATION OF WESTERNAUSTRALIA (INC)

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

PO Box 1944,

Subiaco, WA, 6904

Mob: 0407 194 282

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.

AGENDER AUSTRALIA

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

AISSUPPORT GROUP (AUSTRALIA)

Support group for Intersex people and their families. We have representatives in all Australian States.
PO Box 1089
Altona Meadows, VIC, 3028
Tel: (03) 9315 8809
aissg@iprimus.com.au
www.vicnet.net.au/~aissg

AUSTRALIAN WOMAN NETWORK

Australian WOMAN Network is primarily a lobby and health support group for people who experience the condition of transsexualism, their families, friends and supporters. There are email discussion lists for members as well as a bulletin board providing places for both public and member-only access. There is also a large archive of related material available for education and research purposes.

www.w-o-m-a-n.net

FTMAustralia(MTRA)

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.ftmaustralia.org
mail@ftmaustralia.org

International

AGENDER NEW ZEALAND

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and family. For a detailed information pack, please write or call.

PO Box 27-560
Wellington New Zealand
Tel: (64) 025.575.094
janet@paradise.net.nz
http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/janet/

BEAUMONT SOCIETY

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

BEAUMONT TRUST

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

CROSS-TALK

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

FTM INTERNATIONAL

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

FTM NETWORK UK

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

GENDERBRIDGE Inc.

Support and Social Society for people with gender identity issues, their families, partners and professionals involved in care, treatment and counselling.
PO Box 70060, Auckland, 1230, New Zealand
Phone: (64) (09) 0800 TGHELP (0800.84.4357) (24 hrs)
www.genderbridge.org
info@genderbridge.org

GENDER TRUST (THE)

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

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

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

IFGE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

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

IKHLAS

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

ITANZ INTERSEX TRUST AOTEAROA OF NEW ZEALAND

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

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF AUCKLAND-NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 68 509,
Newton, Auckland,
New Zealand

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF CHRISTCHURCH-NEW ZEALAND

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

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF WELLINGTON-NEW ZEALAND

Provides a confidential service for trannies working in the sex industry.
PO Box 11/412, Manner St
Wellington New Zealand
Tel: (64) 482-8791
Fax: (64) 801-5690

Every effort has been made to include accurate and up-to-date information in this directory. To amend your listing fax 02 9569 1176 or email the Editor on resourcestgc@bigpond.com

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

the
truth
about transsexualism

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

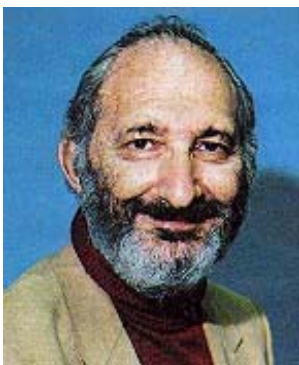
m2f - A Journey in Gender Identity

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

RRP \$40.00 - NOW \$20 plus postage and packaging.
Contact Patricia Church (03) 9773 1954 or 0411
719 130 or email: patdownunder43@hotmail.com



Professor Milton Diamond



Jon Faine



Georgina Beyer MP



Julie Peters

Contacts

BRISBANE TRANSSEXUAL

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

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

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

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

CODE 012/04

Contacts

FRIENDSHIP TO LOVER

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

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

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

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

FRIENDSHIP OR MORE

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

CODE 002/05

Contacts

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

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

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

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

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 grand-children, i.e. no objection to kids!

Rose
CODE 001/06

Contacts

**34 - Y E A R - O L D
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

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

Sex, Gender & Sexuality Clinic

Director Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH, CMCAPA, PACFA

Doctor of Clinical Hypnotherapy, Psychotherapist,
Counsellor & Sex Therapist

All Sex, Gender and Sexuality Diverse People Welcome:
Transsexual, Transgender, Transvestite, Intersex etc.

Hormonal & Surgical Referrals When Applicable

Member of World Professional Association for Transgender Health

Author of *Trans-X-U-All* (1997), *Sex, Gender and Sexuality* (1999),
Co-editor of *Finding the Real Me* (2003).

Life Coaching also available



You Can Consult Me in Person or Via Telephone & Videophone from Anywhere in Australia

Ph 02 9562 6802

www.tracieokeefe.com

IPL Laser & Skin Clinic



Skin-Resurfacing
Photorejuvenation
Scar Reduction &
Acne Management

**Permanent Hair
Reduction**

**Book & Pay for 6 Sessions &
Get 1 Free!**

OR

**10% discount for trans
community with this advert***

Free initial consultation



**35 years experience
in skincare.
High-quality service
at competitive prices.**

Australian Health & Education Centre, Shop 3 Glebe Place, 131-145 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe

* Offer valid to
December 2007

Ph 02 9562 6809

www.healtheducationcentre.com/laser.htm