

# *Polare*

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



**Edition 74**

**January-March 2008**



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**THE FINE PRINT**

*Polare*

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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.

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*Polare* A Magazine for people with gender issues

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**Editor: Katherine Cummings**

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**DEADLINE**

for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is the eighth of March 2008.

# Phinn's Report

The Gender Centre would like to thank our many supporters for the year that has passed

In 2007 the Gender Centre built a strong partnership with Marrickville Council and I look forward to working with all at the Council in the coming year. In 2007 the Council gave the Gender Centre a grant for the refurbishment for one of our refuge houses which was in desperate need. The Gender Centre bought new bedding, mattresses, tables, chairs, lounges, pots and pans etc. The furniture in this house was almost twenty years old and second-hand. Without help from the Council this would not have been possible.

The Street-smart project and The Aurora Group also provided a grant for the refurbishment of a second refuge house, leaving us one more house to refurbish.

The Gender Centre would also like to thank the City of Sydney Council for supplying a Self Defence instructor from Fight Like A Girl Self Defence school. The instructor, Kevin Marshal, was brilliant. There were two sessions, both held at the Gender Centre in November and December for our clients. The feedback that I have received has been enthusiastic. Eight clients attended and really enjoyed the classes. We hope we will be able to provide more classes in the coming year.

We would also like to thank Oz Harvest for all the support that they have given over the year in supplying food for our Drop-in clients, all the barbecues held at the Gender Centre, food for our community clients and for our outreach clients.

And I would like to thank the Women's Housing Company for supplying us with two additional exit properties in 2007. The Gender Centre now has a total of six exit flats, which would not have been possible without the support of Bobby T and Sybille.

I look forward in working more closely with all the team at the Women's Housing Company in 2008

I would personally like to thank all the staff at the Gender Centre for all their hard work and commitment throughout the year and for their support in pushing the service forward and for their patience in the move from Morgan Street to Bent Street.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a happy and safe New Year.

*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



Humankind has from time immemorial made laws and rules of conduct, some of which (pitifully few) were based on reason and most of which were based in ignorance, prejudice and a wish to assert superiority (moral, military, social) over others.

Ignorant of the physical laws of nature they attributed supernatural qualities to phenomena such as thunder and lightning, pestilence and volcanoes. They fenced themselves about with rules which may have had sensible origins (such as dietary rules against eating shellfish or pigs) but no longer apply in administrations which control hygiene and food quality. They attributed their own successes and failures to non-existent deities and strove to placate these imaginary creatures by inventing ceremonials and taboos, sacrifices and penances.

The area of taboos alone is one of mindless illogicality and pitiful willingness to accept rules imposed by parents, guardians and governments without questioning their validity or their purpose in the real world.

Take the case of taboos. In virtually every society the world has known there have been taboos ... words to be avoided, relationships to be eschewed, parts of the body deemed improper. There are tribes where it is considered immoral for a man to speak with his wife's mother. There are cultures where breaking wind in a public gathering is so shameful that the culprit is expected to commit a painful suicide. There are words in our own society which are thought to be 'crude', 'dirty' or 'obscene'. Why? Because that is the way things have been for a long time and because the elders of our society and those who feel they are authorised to set 'standards' say so.

Any word is exactly as moral as any other, unless one lives by these strange and meaningless rules that attribute power to one set of words and not to others. Words may be appropriate or inappropriate, they may be arcane or obsolete through changing usage, but they do not have the kind of semi-magical power attributed to them by mindless convention.

It is deemed morally necessary to conceal some parts of the body in some places, or during some activities and from certain individuals. Exposure of genitalia and the


mammary glands of women is frowned on in our society yet there are cultures in many parts of the world where nudity is accepted calmly, and clothing is seen as protection against the elements, or as decoration. Convention? Magic? Custom? Prescription? Lack of thought.

Nor are taboo laws immutable. A Victorian woman could not show her ankles without risking inflaming the baser desires of men. Why ankles and not elbows? Surely mankind has progressed past the point of giving way to uncontrollable passion in the presence of unclothed members of the opposite sex? Surely we can expect people who have accepted a set of laws of conduct to live by those laws and not fall back on the rapist's and homophobe's defence of irresistible provocation?

Part of the problem is the hangover of laws which were based on religious, rather than moral, motivation. Morality is not hard to distill. It basically comes back to the Golden Rule ('do unto others...') and to Lerner's aphorism ... 'your right to swing your fist stops just short of my nose.' Social justice goes further in recognising the self-evident truth that all men (and women) are created equal (leave aside the moot point of there being a Creator in the capital "C" sense), and in suggesting that a just society 'takes from each according to his means and gives to each according to his needs'.

Many of the injustices suffered by mankind also involve 'pecking order', the notion that you can better yourself, if only in your self-esteem, by considering someone else to be your inferior. If humanity did not feel it necessary to compete rather than co-operate, many of the social and international conflicts which deny our common humanity could be resolved. We have one world and one human race (racism is an oxymoron). If we set out to help rather than exploit those cultures which lag in areas of health, education and welfare, we would become a just society and not just a society.

What does this have to do with us? It has everything to do with us because we are seen as lower in the pecking order than the non-transgendered. No matter how many laws are passed to assert our rights, the truth is that we will continue to be disadvantaged, denied goods, services and employment, refused basic human rights and the right to live without fear. We have made significant progress in the past century and the few years of the present one thanks to a few brave activists but there is much to do and it is our responsibility and our right to do it.

*Katherine* 

# NCHSR and The Gender Centre Inc

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

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

**Transgender Ex-Prisoner Sub-  
Project**

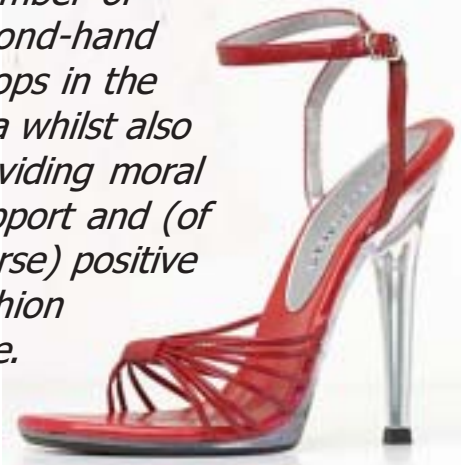
Researchers from the National Centre in HIV Social Research are seeking people who identify as transgender and have been in prison in NSW or Qld in the last ten years. We would like to interview individuals on their prison and sexual experiences and treatment as a transgender ex-prisoner. Interviews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

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

## ***Op-Shop Extravaganza!***

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

*The group will visit a number of second-hand shops in the area whilst also providing moral support and (of course) positive fashion advice.*



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

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

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



## FTMAustralia 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 Australia-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](http://www.ftmaustralia.org)

More information about membership is available through  
Our website at [www.ftmaustralia.org](http://www.ftmaustralia.org)  
By email [mail@ftmaustralia.org](mailto: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**

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

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On November 24 Australia went to the polls and the Government changed hands from the Coalition, with its regressive policies of repression and removal of human rights, to Labor, who have declared a policy of social inclusion, as enunciated by the Labor Deputy Leader, Julia Gillard in a paper she gave to the ACOSS National Annual Conference two days before the election, when she was Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, as well as for Social Inclusion. In her final paragraph Ms Gillard says she intends to do something about “enduring disadvantage”. We look forward to fulfilment of this promise.

In her speech Ms Gillard said,

“Firstly, thank you to ACOSS for organising this summit on one of the most important issues in this election campaign – creating a fairer Australia. I am attending today to bring a message from Kevin Rudd about Labor’s determination to create a fairer Australia.

As the ANZ’s Saul Eslake and the Business Council of Australia’s Michael Chaney have recently told us: reducing disadvantage is now a both a moral **and** economic imperative for Australia.

Labor strongly agrees. Unlike the Howard Government, we believe that fairness and prosperity are utterly inseparable. And that turning our backs on the disadvantaged will come at a serious cost to our economic future. Too many individuals and communities remain caught in a spiral of low school attainment, high unemployment and under-employment, poor health, high imprisonment rates and child abuse. Too many Australians are socially excluded.

But if we are going to solve the problem of social exclusion we have to develop a new agenda that can bring social and economic policy together to complement each other. That’s what Labor intends to do. In my view, such an agenda must have two guiding principles:

- **it must tackle the social exclusion of individuals and communities;** and
- **it must invest in the human capital of all our people, especially the most disadvantaged.**

The welfare sector has put these issues on the board. And I want to congratulate you for that great work. But the job’s far from done. Should we win Saturday’s election, I want you to join the new Labor Government in becoming part of a long-term solution to the problem of social disadvantage.

But with a sense of realism, we can make huge inroads into disadvantage. New advisory and policy coordination bodies will be needed to guide it. If elected a Rudd Labor Government will be the first government to ever have a Minister for Social Inclusion. And today I will be launching Labor’s social inclusion policy with the Premier Mike Rann.



**Julia Gillard**

To get things moving, Labor in government will establish a **Social Inclusion Board** that will lead consultation in the community, listening to leading welfare advocates, economists and policy specialists.

Its task will be to advise the Government on what, how and where our major social investment efforts must begin, feeding into the operations of a new **Social Inclusion Unit** to be established in the Prime Minister’s Department.

Let me be clear: our social inclusion initiatives will not be about welfare – they will be an investment strategy to join social policy to economic policy to the benefit of both. For this reason, our Social Inclusion Unit and Board will be made up of serious economic and social thinkers, not just welfare representatives. This won’t be a memorial to good intentions – it will be about action and hard-headed economics.

We have to change the way Governments at all levels deliver services to tackle disadvantage. It’s going to be about bottom up not top-down measures to tackle disadvantage – so we will be asking local governments, non-government organizations and businesses to participate in new place-based governance arrangements that bring together Commonwealth, State and local funds in the most effective way to lift up disadvantaged communities.

Labor recognises that education is critical to social inclusion. The fact is that school completion rates among low socio-economic groups in Australia are far too low. If we’re going to compete with other nations we simply have to get more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete twelve years of schooling and go on to further education and training.

Our goal of getting retention rates back up to 90 percent by 2020 will require big improvements among the most disadvantaged groups. We’re going to do it by investing



\$2.5 billion to boost trades training in schools.

And we're going to do it by ensuring every child has access to a computer when they're at school – and, when they get home, the computers, broadband, books and other educational resources they need to study, through our **education tax rebate for families**. In a world of scarce education resources it makes sense to invest funds where they will make the most impact – and this means years 0 to 6.

One of the most significant commitments of our social inclusion agenda is **universal preschool education for four year olds**. And we're also teaming up with the Brotherhood of St Laurence to establish **50 community based programs** to help parents develop their children's early learning capacities.

Tackling disadvantage also means doing more to help job seekers – particularly those facing the highest barriers to employment. That's why we intend to improve the operation of the **Job Network** and the **Disability Employment Network**:

- by focusing more on early intervention;
- by ensuring struggling job seekers get the most intensive assistance; and
- by putting the emphasis on preparing people for sustainable jobs, not simply churning them through a system.

We're going to commit **an extra \$20 million to the JET Child Care programs** to allow some 10,000 parents who are studying to receive the benefit for two years. And our Social Inclusion Board will be asked to develop a **national employment strategy for those with a disability and mental illness**.

Of course before we do anything else, we must ensure people have a roof over their heads. 100,000 Australians find themselves homeless on any night. Of these, nearly half are under twenty-four years of age and 10,000 are children aged twelve or younger.

While the services that are funded to assist the homeless do their best – and manage to accommodate more than 12,000 at any one time in around 7,500 shelters, units and houses – this is not enough to meet demand.

To tackle this, Labor will invest \$150 million over five years to build **600 new houses and units for homeless people** across the country. Our aim is to halve the number of people regularly turned away from shelters each night.

We've also been listening to members of the National Housing Affordability Summit and their call for a **National**

**Rental Affordability Scheme**, which will provide investment incentives for 50,000 new affordable rental properties in return for owners holding rents to 20 percent or more below the market rate.

Perhaps one of the cruellest aspects of the Howard Government's neglect of the disadvantaged was their scrapping of the **Commonwealth Dental Health Program** in 1996. Because the last thing you can afford when you're poor is a trip to a dentist. As a result of that callous decision, today some 650,000 low-income Australians are on public dental waiting lists, some waiting for years in pain.

This is totally unacceptable in a civilized society – and to tackle it Labor is going to spend \$290 million to re-establish the program and treat up to 1 million patients in the next 3 years. This is one of Australia's largest public health problems and it is time it was fixed. And it will complement our **\$2.5 billion National Health Reform Plan** that will work with the states to improve our public hospital system.

## Conclusion

Labor's social inclusion agenda will be as expansive as it is inclusive. Today, I'm asking for your cooperation. I know that many of you have been fighting long battles against some of the most depressing and punitive policy changes of the Howard Government years:

- the abolition of the Commonwealth Dental Health Scheme;
- the slow strangulation of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreements;
- the failures of the Job Network;
- the sheer vindictiveness of breaching rules against the homeless and the ill;
- and the neglect of education; and
- closer to home for some of you – the gagging of advocacy functions which give your communities a voice.

Like you, I'm getting sick of protesting against enduring disadvantage. I want to do something practical to reduce it. A Labor win on Saturday will give all of us here the opportunity to channel our cooperative efforts into a positive strategy that will do just that. And should we win, I look forward to working with all parts of the community sector to start putting our strategy into place.

Thank you."

# News Items of Interest

## **VANISHED CHAMPION REAPPEARS AFTER GENDER REASSIGNMENT**

Cyclist Robert Millar was known as the King of the Mountains because of his performances in the Tour de France. He was named BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 1984. Then he simply disappeared in 2003.

He reappeared in 2007 as Philippa York and lives quietly in a Dorset village. One of the locals said "Everyone knows Philippa used to be a man but they are too polite to talk about it. She still enjoys riding her bike.



**Robert Millar and Philippa York**

Robert Millar, the cyclist once failed a drugs test for having too much testosterone in his system.

Over eleven years he finished in the 'top twenty' five times in the Tour de France.

His motivation for competing so hard brought the response, "The mountains are the only chance I get of making the other guys suffer. But I have to suffer that much to make them suffer that I don't enjoy it."

Philippa York has now retired and refuses to discuss her former life. She lives with her girlfriend, who also refuses to discuss the matter.

A journalist who tried to find the mysteriously missing cyclist finally managed to establish email contact. When he asked where the former champion had disappeared to, the response was, "Disappeared? Not really. Moved on, relaxed, chilled or only doing things that please me."

## **THE APPLE ISLE IS ON THE CASE**

Martine Delaney, a transgender woman and an activist, lodged a complaint during the Federal election in November 2007 that a Liberal Party election pamphlet incited hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Martine claimed that the pamphlet referred to same-sex marriage as "extreme and harmful".

The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner has confirmed that the complaint has been accepted for investigation. It is now up to the Liberal Party to respond.

## **TRANSGENDER ACTRESS TO PLAY TRANSGENDER ROLE!**

The very successful new television series "Dirty Sexy Money" now running on America's ABC (and soon to be available on DVD) has broken new ground by being the first major television network to give a continuing transgender role to a transgendered actor or actress.

This contrasts with the very successful character Hailey from "Coronation Street" and the character of Alexis Meade in "Ugly Betty", both of which are played by genetic women.

In "Dirty Sexy Money", Candis Cayne portrays Carmelita, the love-starved mistress of William 'Baldy' Baldwin. Following her gender affirmation surgery Candis had almost given up on working in Hollywood again. Before landing the part of Carmelita, Candis had been

out of work for nearly ten years. Now all she needs is a more credible name.

## **YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD FOR THE RIGHTS OF GLBTI**

A significant step forward has been taken by the adoption in Yogyakarta of a set of principles on sexual orientation, gender identity and international law. Twenty-nine international human rights experts convened in the Indonesian city in November 2006 and the resultant document was launched in Geneva in March 2007.

The principles confirm legal standards for governments to end abuse, violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and espouse the principle of full equality.

The principles address topics such as rape and other forms of gender-based violence, extrajudicial executions, torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, medical abuses, repression of free speech and assembly and discrimination in work, health, education, housing, access to justice and immigration.

They also deal with the principle of full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people around the world. They call for action from the United Nations human rights system as well as action at the national level and from media, non-governmental organisation and others.

The principles were launched at the UN Human Rights Council. The human rights experts who created the principles included Australians Philip Alston who is Professor of Law at NY University, Elizabeth Evatt, a distinguished jurist, and New Zealander Paul Hunt, Professor of law at the University of Essex.

Dear Reader,

As a counsellor I am privileged to hear about people's lives. There is one form of counselling, narrative therapy, which focuses on people telling their stories and how they tell them. As a gift to you, I thought I would share this story with you.

A while ago a babe was born.

Most people were unaware but some brought presents and congratulations.

Every year there after the babe's true nature unfolded.

Raised voices, now, sing salutations for a birth so long ago.

Reindeers of childhood imagination ferry the Father of Yuletide with gifts from a land afar.

Carols and candlelight weave through the masses and beyond.

Hallelujas hail the humble babe and the miracle of birth.

Rejoicing rings out over the sorrowful sitting quietly in the shadows.

Incense evokes visions of a time long ago and new beginnings

Silence comes after midnight.

Time turns the darkness into light and sleeping into waking.

Morning and movement transform the night, and there is the sound of children's delight.

Across the sky starlight, now sunlight shines down from the heavens on

Santa Claus and Saint Nick living on in the human spirit.

The old year passes and the new will come.

On this day, however, we can pause for a while.

Years roll on.

Once in a while, we share our stories.

Upon this day I give you my re-telling of a story about birth and wondrous events.

from 



## NEEDLE EXCHANGE

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or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr advice, information and referral service. Sydney  
02 9331 2111  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
*nights*  
**6 - 8pm**

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**- Free -**

**Friends/Family**  
**all welcome**

7 Bent Street, Petersham



## Sex and Gender Education

### (SAGE) Needs You!

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

#### Membership is FREE!

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


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

and sign up to our low-volume mailing list

For more information visit our website

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

**SAGE - campaigning for your rights!**



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

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

## Diverse Sexualities Access Project

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

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

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

#### Have you ever:

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

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

Robert Reynolds

Diverse Sexualities Access Project Worker

Diverse Sexualities Access Project

PO Box 627

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

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# Globalisation, Healthism and Harm Reduction: Responsibility, Blame and Cultures of Care

Issue Seventy-four

by Dr Max Hopwood

## Introduction

In recent decades, there have been moves toward emphasising the role of individual responsibility in the maintenance of health, as well as a tendency to stigmatise and blame some individuals and social groups for their ill-health. This brief article explores notions of health responsibility and blame through the lens of major economic and cultural phenomena which have occurred over the past thirty-five years: namely, globalisation, healthism and harm reduction. In this article I draw on the work of contemporary sociologists and historians to examine the inter-relationship of these phenomena. In line with a growing number of commentators, I urge a direct political analysis of the social and legal systems that create harm for people who inject illicit drugs. This is important because harm reduction as it is currently constituted within public health individualises health-related responsibility while masking the structural determinants of risk behaviour and ill-health, to the detriment of the people the paradigm purports to protect.

## Globalisation

Beginning in the early 1970s, well-documented changes have occurred in relation to the functioning of capitalism. Globalisation, or the growing integration of economies and societies around the world, has resulted in rapid economic growth for some countries. A factor which is driving globalisation is neo-liberalism, an economic, social and moral philosophy which embraces small government and free-market privatisation over state intervention in the affairs of citizens. Under this market-based philosophical system, nation-states willingly divest power and control over the economic affairs of their citizens to the private sector and *its* accompanying culture-ideology of consumerism. The general neo-liberal vision is that every individual citizen is an entrepreneur managing his or her own life, and should behave in ways consistent with prevailing conventions of economic and social responsibility. The State, paradoxically, plays an increasingly *regulatory* role on behalf of private capitalist concerns (Robertson, 1992).

## Healthism

Such far-reaching economic reforms create equally significant cultural shifts and the changes which flow from globalisation are important for understanding cultural developments in notions of responsibility and blame, and cultures of care. On the heel of these changes emerged a new consumer movement and health consciousness which sociologist Robert Crawford (1980) refers to as 'healthism'. Crawford defines healthism as:

**' ... a pre-occupation with personal health as ... the primary focus for the definition and achievement of wellbeing; a goal which is to be attained primarily through the modification of life styles, with or without therapeutic help' (Crawford, 1980)**

Consistent with the neo-liberal focus on individualism, healthism construes individual behaviour, attitudes and emotions as the factors which need attention for the realisation of health, and solutions to preventing illness are seen to lie in the realm of individual choice. For

proponents of this new health consciousness, the path to good health is via an individual's determination to resist the temptations of culture, overcome institutional and environmental constraints, resist disease agents and refuse to succumb to lazy or poor personal habits. Individuals are implored to be personally responsible for their health and are encouraged to engage in a variety of health-maximising practices like exercise, attending to diet, reducing alcohol consumption and ceasing smoking (Crawford, 1980). Much of the cultural shift toward personalising health responsibility, as articulated by the tenets of healthism, is explained in terms of an ideology of consumerism that is functional for the new globalised regime of capitalism. The main beneficiaries of these changes are the private sector, the new middle class and the power elites of the state (Scambler, 2006). Indeed, it is not uncommon to hear politicians make rather simplistic claims regarding the significance of personal or individual



**Dr Max Hopwood**



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responsibility for health, or to attribute blame for viral epidemics to individual behaviour, such as:

**... [A] lot of [viral epidemics] are a function of personal behaviour ... so I think we can get a message out there: personal behaviour does matter ... Original sin is a serious problem in our make-up. But the fact is we can't give up on the message that people need to take responsibility and that personal choice counts. (Tony Abbott, 2003)**

But personal responsibility risks the myopia of classical individualism where individual responsibility is seen to be all that anyone ever needs. Healthism does not acknowledge the social and cultural constraints which large swathes of health consumers experience against 'choosing' healthy practices and life-styles. It follows, as many commentators have remarked, that the notion of individual responsibility promotes an assumption of individual blame for ill-health. Under a regime of healthism, people experience intense social pressures to act in ways to minimise the likelihood that their behaviours, motivations and emotions will result in costly ill-health; failing to act preventively becomes a sign of social, not just individual, irresponsibility. In this way, our globalised economy has determined that individual responsibility for health is more important than individual freedom. Behaviours, attitudes, and emotions that are deemed to put individuals at risk of disease are medicalised and people become morally obliged to correct unhealthy habits. Illness and any practice that can potentially lead to illness, becomes an individual moral failing caused by personal deficits.

Through this process, victim-blaming ideology gains strong roots in popular culture. The phenomenon of victim-blaming is familiar to those working with marginalised populations like people with HIV and hepatitis C infection.

The upshot of the inter-relationship between economic and cultural changes brought about by globalisation and healthism over past decades is that blame is attached to the shame which defines health-related stigma. Individuals or groups of people whose lifestyle practices are deemed to constitute a personal or community health risk are understood to be a drain on resources and a threat to civilisation, and often both (Jones et al. 1984). As Crawford argues, individualism and the ideology of healthism foster an insidious de-politicisation which undermines the *social* effort to improve health and wellbeing. While it serves a benefit for many middle-class people who can afford to adopt a health-promoting life style, health-ism can reinforce an illusion that we as individuals always improve

health will somehow satisfy the longing for a much more varied complex of needs' (Crawford, 1980, p.368).

### *Harm reduction*

As neo-liberal States during late modernity drew back from direct intervention in the lives of citizens and devolved many of their powers to a range of private interests and service providers, power became located more generally throughout society than in overtly governmental institutions (Foucault, 1991). Foucault's writing on governmentality highlights how all institutions are governmental institutions and all citizens have a role to play in the governance of self and others (Foucault, 1991). Certain issues, such as HIV and viral hepatitis epidemics, which are construed as requiring State action, are negotiated and mediated through consultations with stakeholders, some of whom were created by the State's need for bounded populations to act on, and sub-governmental bodies to act through. Such new regimes of government come about through what Mitchell Dean (1992) refers to as 'a new prudentialism'; that is a reliance on a scientific calculation of risk based on large epidemiological data sets. 'Community' is created via statistical models of risk practice and risk groups with a purpose of developing *harm reduction* interventions that enculture self-regulation. An example is the 'injecting drug use community', a geographically and demographically unbounded collective constituted via a statistically determined common susceptibility, at least at a population level, to poor health outcomes. The importance of the modern harm reduction movement to public health is usually measured by its capacity to prevent transmission of blood-borne virus infections and avoid drug overdose by teaching drug users self-management interventions. Dean characterises harm reduction for injecting drug users as a technology of agency which:

**'... often comes into play when certain individuals, groups and communities become what I have called target populations, i.e. populations that manifest high risk or are composed of individuals deemed at risk ... the object being to transform their status, to make them active citizens capable, as individuals and communities, of managing their own risk.'** (Dean, 1992)

Certainly, the emergence of the harm reduction movement is part of an overall shift away from social control through overt or coercive state power, to more productive techniques designed to elicit compliance through self-regulation (Roe, 2005). The harm reduction movement appears at a time in history when neo-liberal values of

individualism and self-regulation are becoming increasingly common within the new public health discourse. The utopian ideal of globalization, health-ism and prudentialism is a responsible, self-regulating harm reductionist. However, the way that harm reduction has evolved over the past decade has implications for 'self-regulation' among people from differing economic and social categories.

Historically, there has been much tension within the harm reduction movement as activists who comprise one of the two main pillars of the paradigm, criticize what they term 'medical' harm reduction – the other pillar – for its reluctance to criticize global drug prohibition and for its failure to highlight the structural determinants of problematic drug use such as poverty. Rather, according to harm reduction activists, medical harm reduction prefers to express opposition to social marginalization of illicit drug users by highlighting the poor medical outcomes they suffer, while continuing to work within existing institutions, policy and laws, 'even though the health problems they address are substantially created by the ideology of systems in which they work' (Roe, 2005, p. 245). Observers of developments in harm reduction increasingly echo the words of Gordon Roe, who claims that medical harm reduction is:

**'... characterized by a dangerous acceptance of the present situation of drug users, fatalism towards the prospect of larger change, failure to challenge the contradictions of licit and illicit drug use, and a continuation of the assumptions of addiction and morality that underlie abstinence and enforcement' (Roe, 2005).**

Indeed, many commentators have suggested that the tenets of medical harm reduction ensure continuation of the blaming and shaming which defines health-related stigma. When people who use illicit drugs are unable to effectively self-regulate, say, because of harassment by the police, because of constraints imposed on their drug use practice from living in poverty, because of expensive and contaminated drugs bought off the streets or because of other structural reasons that limit access to harm reduction information and services, blame is leveled at individuals, not the state.

It has to be similarly noted that medical harm reduction initiatives also reduce the social costs of law enforcement and insurance premiums for theft and damage (Roe, 2005), while leaving intact the broader prohibitionist regime which undermines marginalised individuals' efforts

to self-regulate risk behaviours. In fact, as Peter Miller (2001) writing in the journal *Critical Public Health* argued, medical mainstream harm reduction represents a convergence of economic rationalism with social policy which actually enables the state to continue causing harm to people without accepting responsibility for or acknowledging the social, legal and economic source of those harms. By improving the immediate and worst short-term effects of illicit drug use, medical harm reduction circumvents the need for States to change drug laws or address other systemic impediments to health. Harm reduction as it is currently constituted relieves the institution of prohibition of its responsibility for exacerbating health issues such as viral epidemics and in so doing reduces the incentive to make fundamental changes to policy; harm reduction is non-judgemental of illicit drug users, yes, but equally non-judgemental of the system that creates them (Roe, 2005).

### Conclusion

It is important to note that medical harm reduction initiatives such as needle and syringe programmes and methadone maintenance treatment, medically stabilise and help prevent blood-borne viral infections and other negative health outcomes among people who inject. These initiatives of themselves are to be highly valued and supported because without them Australian health systems would undoubtedly have to cope with tens of thousands more HIV and viral hepatitis infections than is currently the case, so I acknowledge absolutely the contributions made by medical harm reduction.

In its current manifestation, however, medical harm reduction offers little real solution to the growing difficulty posed to societies through illicit drug use.

Mainstream medical harm reduction facilitates the ongoing demonisation and blaming of people with HIV, viral hepatitis and injecting drug users for their failure to 'responsibly' manage the complex calculus of health needs associated with the practice of injecting. Without a reinvigoration of its political activist roots, modern harm reduction will remain a conservative medicalised movement, populated by middle class health professionals in denial of the movement's activist past, and providing no leadership toward a more just future.

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*Paper presented at NCHSR Consortium Workshop 20, August 7 2007, Cockle Bay, Sydney.*

### 10TH SOCIAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON HIV, HEPATITIS C AND RELATED DISEASES

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

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

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

### **What Christmas is About ... Or Should Be**

This one is for everyone who has ever hit my tip jar. I thought you should know what's happened to the money.

There is a TS woman whose wife is now in a psychiatric clinic. Their daughter is five, and she needed some money to ensure she had the court fees required to gain custody.

She's a forklift driver, and although she's been saving, suddenly she had to come up with \$2500 within a few weeks to pay the legal costs. A daunting task, since she just moved into a larger home the courts required her to have so she could bring up her daughter properly. She was saving, and had she been given more time, she could have done it alone. But time was something she didn't have.

She'd raised \$1000, but was faced with a Christmas with little hope, and her daughter at the tender mercies of State care.

Now thanks to you, my readers, she has hope. And the money.

My Christmas gift to you, my readers, is that you have made a difference. Your generosity has led to a woman regaining her faith in the milk of human kindness, yes, even miracles, and her daughter's re-union with her.

This isn't the first time I've helped someone, but I normally keep it quiet. This time though, it was too good not to share with you all, and you deserve the credit anyway. Thank you for what you've done for her. Thank you for what you've done for her daughter. You have made not just a very Merry Christmas, but an exceedingly happy New Year.

And that makes you very happy in turn, no?

Merry Christmas!

Zoe Brain

*Zoe, I found this on Transgen News and felt that Polare readers would like to know that Christmas is still a time for good people to do good things and for people with to help people without. Well done! I hope I haven't embarrassed you!*

KC



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**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.**

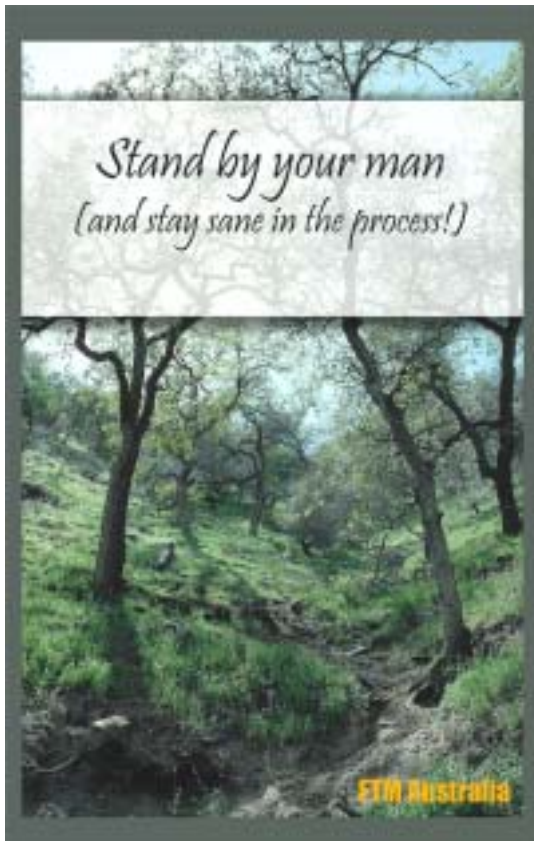
**Please call Sashi on (02) 9646 2233 or 0408 445 753  
for a confidential and anonymous chat or drop in at the Community Health Centre  
at**

**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.**

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ISBN: 978-0-6464-7753-4

**A**t this time of year, as usual, things seem to wind down momentarily for FTM Australia. There tends to be a surge in membership over the New Year – perhaps the result of some very serious ‘New Year Resolutions’. In the past few months there has been an unusual increase in members earlier than usual. Perhaps it’s an indication of the success of FTM Australia getting the information ‘out there’ – I’m not sure.

Another interesting change is the age of new contacts. Back in 2001 when we started, it was very common to see members joining who were in their late 20s or mid 30s. Now they’re even younger! Lads who are eighteen and seventeen seem to be more common these days.

For a peer-run and peer-funded network, we’re doin’ okay!

FTM Australia is on FaceBook – the social networking website that connects people with others. You’re welcome to hook up with us on FaceBook. You never know, you might find some new friends, and some old ones, through the FTM Australia links there. Search on [ftmaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:ftmaustralia@gmail.com) and you should find us easily.

Our newsletter, *Torque*, which is free to members, is coming up to the final edition for 2007. There are some very vibrant young men in this edition who share with you their personal experience of finding answers. Don’t forget, your advertisements are free in *Torque*, you might be able to contact some old friends or guys in your area, and let others know of local events or projects you want to advertise.

If you need something for your Mum and Dad to read about your decision to transition, or any family members, we have published a book called ‘Stand by your man (and stay sane in the process!)’. This is a handbook full of personal accounts by partners and other family members and deals *only with* female-to-male transition. You can see an advertisement for this resource on page 15, in this edition of *Polare*.

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). We use LiveMSN and this has become our regular get together online. Details on how to join in are here <http://www.ftmaustralia.org/chat.html>

The up-coming publication *Transitioning female-to-male in Australia* draft is with our editor, who has kindly offered his services free of charge to FTM Australia to work on this publication. If you’d like to reserve a copy

in advance, (to make sure I order a sufficient number) let me know.

Wishing you a happy sunny Christmas!

Craig Andrews  
Coordinator, FTMAustralia

PO Box 488, Glebe NSW 2037

Website [www.ftmaustralia.org](http://www.ftmaustralia.org)

Email [mail@ftmaustralia.org](mailto:mail@ftmaustralia.org)



## PLEASE NOTE!

Appointments for counselling should be made directly with Gaye Stubbs, the Gender Centre Counsellor.

Phone 9569 2366 Monday-Thursday.

## 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.

KC



# MENTAL HEALTH #4

# SELF ESTEEM

# QUEER

Laura Seabrook's

# STUFF

© 2003

IN THIS LAST (FOR NOW) INSTALLMENT ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, I TALK ABOUT SELF ESTEEM. OBVIOUSLY I KNOW WHAT SELF ESTEEM IS BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS SELF ESTEEM?!

FIRST WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT THE "SELF" IS.

CONSIDER THIS COMIC STRIP - I DON'T REALLY LOOK LIKE THIS - IT'S JUST THE WAY I DRAW MYSELF. IN FACT...

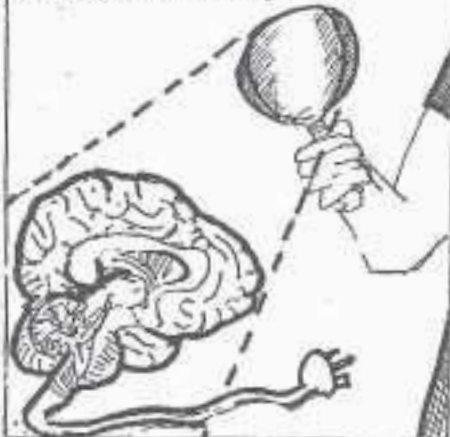
...THIS IS ME BUT I HAVE A "MENTAL MODEL OF WHO I AM AND WHAT I AM."

BUT THAT MODEL ISN'T "REALITY" - IT'S JUST MY IDEA OF WHO I THINK I AM. GOT THAT?

HOW WHAT WAS I THINKING? SEE, MOST PEOPLE FORGET THAT THESE ARE ONLY MODELS, AND MISTAKE THEM FOR REALITY. WELL "DAH" YOU SAY, "SO WHAT?" YOU ASK...



IT'S ALL TO DO WITH HOW OUR BRAINS ORGANISE OURSELVES. THE BRAIN IS THE "HARDWARE" THAT HOLDS THE "SOFTWARE" OF THE MIND - HOW WE THINK, OUR MEMORIES, PREFERENCES AND THOSE MODELS OF SELF THAT I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED.

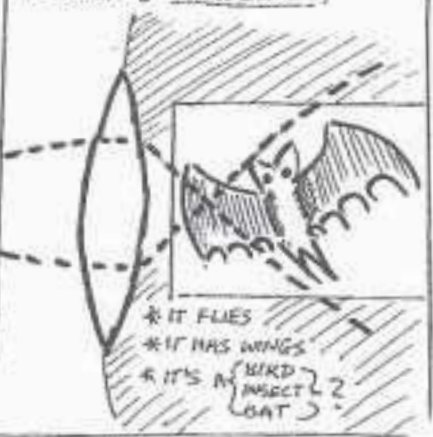


## A MODEL OF THE MIND



THE CONSCIOUSNESS IS WHAT'S IN OUR ATTENTION AT ANY MOMENT, BUT THE UNCONSCIOUS IS THAT WHICH WE NEVER DIRECTLY KNOW ABOUT. (SUMMER-EH?)

PART OF THE MIND IS WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED THE "NARRATOR", AN EDITOR/OBSERVER THAT HELPS US TO INTERPRETE THE WORLD, IT SPINS STORIES ABOUT EVERYTHING, INCLUDING OURSELVES.





BECAUSE OF THIS PROCESS, WE HAVE RELIGION, FICTION, SCIENCE AND ART. THESE ARE ALL STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES ABOUT THE WORLD, OURSELVES, AND OUR PLACE IN IT.



YOU'LL NOTICE I DON'T COMMENT ON HOW ACCURATE THESE STORIES ARE - DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

ON THE WHOLE THIS IS A GOOD THING. IF IT MAKES UP A STORY THAT'S ACCURATE, YOU CAN PREDICT THINGS, AND THAT CAN SAVE YOU TIME AND ENERGY...

... BUT WHEN THOSE STORIES ARE WRONG IT CAN CAUSE A LOT OF GRIEF AND ALSO MUCH MISUNDERSTANDING.

**MODEL OF SELF**

"I CAN COPE"

CARBURETOR'S DOWN  
COMPUTER DIES  
VERY LOW INCOME

I'LL RIDE MY PUSHBIKE OR CATCH A BUS - MAKE TIME WITH THE PETS - THIS GIVES ME A CHANCE TO "FIX UP" THE HOUSE - I'LL DO ANOTHER PROJECT INSTEAD - GEE, I DO MORE OF MY COMIX NOW - THINGS WILL GET BETTER.

**MODEL OF SELF**

"I'M NO GOOD"

CAR BREAKS DOWN  
COMPUTER STOPS WORKING  
VERY LOW INCOME

I MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING WRONG - I'LL LOSE ALL MY FRIENDS - THAT PROJECT OF MINE WILL NEVER GET DONE - I'LL BE TRAPPED OUT AT THE TOWN I LIVE IN - SO MUCH FOR THE INTERNET - I'LL NEVER HAVE ANY FUN - THIS WILL NEVER CHANGE.

BECAUSE WE PUT SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON VALIDATION...

WOW - MAM - I GOT AN "A" IN ENGLISH!

THAT'S NICE, DEAR.

IT'D BE NICE TO THINK OF "SELFESTEEM" LIKE A FUEL GAUGE - FROM HIGH (OR FULL) TO LOW (OR EMPTY) BUT THINGS AREN'T THAT SIMPLE. SOMETIMES IT'S MORE LIKE A GAUGE THAT'S STUCK - GO OVER A BIG BUMP AND IT SUDDENLY GOES ALL THE WAY DOWN TO "EMPTY"!

... WE CAN BE VERY FRAGILE WHEN THAT VALIDATION FAILS TO APPEAR.

OH NO - I GOT AN "F" IN BOTH GEOGRAPHY AND MATHS! I MUST BE USELESS...

OH WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY HARDER.

YIPPEE

GOOD

OK

POOR





WHEN WE ARE CHILDREN, WE'LL FEEL GOOD ABOUT OURSELVES WHEN WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING...

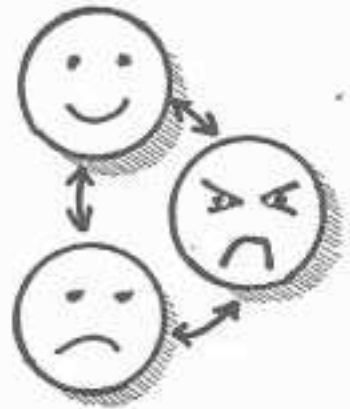
- \* A SENSE OF PHYSICAL SAFETY  
NOT FEARFUL OF BEING HARMED OR HURT, OF FEELING SAFE, WILLING TO EXTEND TRUST.
- \* A SENSE OF EMOTIONAL SECURITY  
KNOWING THAT WE WON'T BE "PUT DOWN", MADE TO FEEL LESS WORTHY OR BEATEN UP EMOTIONALLY.
- \* A SENSE OF IDENTITY  
KNOWING YOURSELF, WHAT YOU LIKE TO DO, YOUR PREFERENCES, AND BEING "OK" WITH THIS.
- \* A SENSE OF BELONGING  
FEELING ACCEPTED BY AND CONNECTED TO OTHERS, BEING RESPECTED FOR WHO YOU ARE.
- \* A SENSE OF COMPETENCE  
WHEN WE FELT CAPABLE, WE WERE MORE WILLING TO LEARN, TO TAKE RISKS, AND DO THINGS.
- \* A SENSE OF MISSION  
THIS GIVES US MEANING & DIRECTION, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY GOING TO SCHOOL EACH DAY. WE CAN THEN SET GOALS.

... AND AS KIDS, WE GET THESE FROM OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, SCHOOL, TV, AND OTHER SOURCES

SOMETIMES TOO, WE COME TO SEE OURSELVES AND OTHERS IN ONE OF THREE DIFFERENT ROLES: HERO, VICTIM, AND VILLAIN.

TROUBLE IS THAT THESE BECOME EXCLUSIVE. IF YOU'RE NOT THE HERO, YOU CAST YOURSELF AS EITHER VICTIM (NO HOPE) OR VILLAIN (HEAPS OF GUILT).

TRUTH IS, WE CAN BE ALL THREE AT ONCE, OR ANY OTHER "ROLE" WE WANT TO BE AS WELL.



AS ADULTS, OUR SELF ESTEEM SEEM TO DEPEND UPON SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS...

- \* OUR INHERITED ENDOWMENTS  
EG. GOOD LOOKS, INTELLIGENCE ETC;
- \* FEELING LIKABLE & LOVABLE;
- \* BEING A UNIQUE PERSON,  
ONE DUE RESPECT, OR OF VALUE;
- \* FEELING IN CONTROL OR RESPONSIBLE  
FOR ONE'S LIFE;
- \* MORAL VIRTUE OR INTEGRITY; AND
- \* WHAT ONE HAS ACHIEVED.

... BUT UNLIKE WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN, OUR SOURCES FOR MOST OF THE ABOVE ARE MUCH MORE UNRELIABLE.

RELYING ON OTHERS TO SUPPLY VALIDATION OF THE ABOVE IS "DODGY" AT BEST





**\*MEDITATION/LISTEN TO YOURSELF**

THIS CAN HELP DE-STRESS US. ALSO, BY DOING NOTHING IT'S POSSIBLE TO FORCE THE VOICES OF NARRATOR TO COME TO THE SURFACE, WHERE WE CAN DEAL WITH THEM.

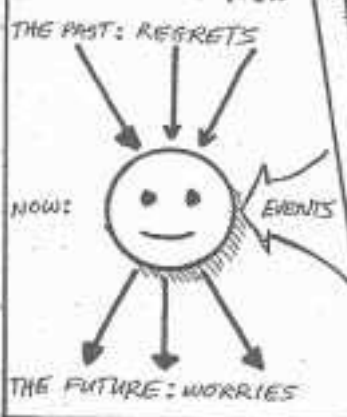


**\*AFFIRMATIONS/GOOD THOUGHTS**

IF YOU KEEP TELLING YOURSELF GOOD THINGS, THE NARRATOR WILL EVENTUALLY BELIEVE IT, AND YOUR MODELS OF SELF WITH ENOUGH TIME, CHANGE.



**\*LIVE IN THE "NOW"**



**\*CHANGE NEGATIVES**



**\*LIVE CONSCIOUSLY**  
UNDERSTAND OURSELVES, AND OUR GOALS. BE AWARE OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD AND THE ONE INSIDE OURSELVES.

**\*SELF ACCEPTANCE**  
OWN AND EXPERIENCE THE REALITY OF OUR THOUGHTS, ACTIONS AND EMOTIONS WITHOUT DENIAL.

**\*SELF-RESPONSIBILITY**  
DON'T WAIT FOR OTHERS TO SAVE YOU - SAVE YOURSELF BY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN CHOICES, ACTIONS.

**\*SELF-ASSERTIVENESS**  
BE WILLING TO BE UP TO THE MARK AND ALLOW OTHERS TO SEE IT. HONOR YOUR OWN WANTS & NEEDS.

**\*LIVE PURPOSEFULLY**  
IDENTIFY OUR GOALS, AND TAKE ACTION TO ACHIEVE THEM, AND MAKE SURE WE'RE ON TRACK TO DO SO.

**\*PERSONAL INTEGRITY**  
KEEP OUR PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS - TO WALK OUR TALK.

**\*LAUGH AT YOURSELF**



**\*DO THINGS YOU ENJOY**



**SELF ESTEEM BOOKS:**

- \* THE "IT" BOOKS  
BEV RIBBETT - ACTUALLY ABOUT PANIC ATTACKS.
- \* FREE TO BE ME  
HALINDA PATERSON ISBN 0-646-08567-0
- \* BEING HAPPY  
ANDREW MATTHEWS ISBN 981-00-0664-0
- \* THE COURAGE TO LIVE  
DOROTHY ROWE ISBN 0-00-637736-X
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- \* SELF ESTEEM  
JUSTIN MEDLEY (ED) ISBN 1-876511-72-2

AND DON'T FORGET THE GOLDEN RULE:

"IT'S NO GOOD JUST KEEPING ABOUT SOLUTIONS & WAYS OF IMPROVING..."

... UNLESS YOU ACTUALLY TRY SOME OF THESE "



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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.

***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

**FTM RESEARCH ARTICLE**

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

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



# The ABC of Hepatitis Viruses

This is the second article in the series brought to you by the Hepatitis C Council of NSW. It looks at hepatitis A, B, and C, as they are easily confused. However, they are completely separate viruses and are spread in very different ways.

The table below describes the major differences between hepatitis A, B, and C.

The rest of the articles in this series will focus on hepatitis C (usually called hep C). For further information on hep C, please contact the Hepatitis C Council of NSW on (02) 9332 1853 or go to the website at [www.hepatitisc.org.au](http://www.hepatitisc.org.au)

	Hep A	Hep B	Hep C
What is it?	A liver illness caused by hep A virus. The virus makes people sick but only for one to three weeks.	A liver illness caused by hep B virus. The virus affects people differently: Most adults clear their infection and have no further problems. Many babies and children don't clear it and may have liver problems later in life.	A liver illness caused by hep C virus. Most people don't clear the virus and have the illness for life.  The illness can cause liver problems.
<i>Window period</i> (the time between infection and the illness showing up in blood tests)	Blood tests usually not given due to the short nature of the illness.	On average, eight weeks.	On average, eleven weeks.
Transmitted by	Food or water contaminated with sewerage.  Anything with human <i>faeces</i> on it that come in contact with the mouth.	<i>Blood-to-blood contact</i> (when one person's blood gets into another person's bloodstream).  Sexual contact.  Mother to baby.	Blood-to-blood contact (see left).  Mother to baby.
Behaviours which put people at risk.	Household contact with an infected person.  Sexual contact (involving anal sex) with an infected person.  Travelling through developing countries.	Sexual contact with an infected person.  Sharing any equipment when injecting drugs,  Having a needlestick injury.  Tattooing or body piercing with contaminated equipment.  Medical procedures in developing countries.	Sharing any equipment when injecting drugs.  Receiving blood products before February 1990 in Australia.  Having a needlestick injury.  Tattooing or body piercing with contaminated equipment.  Medical procedures in developing countries.

	Hep A	Hep B	Hep C
Symptoms in short term infection.	<p>Feeling unwell, aches and pains, fever, nausea, lack of appetite, abdominal pain, dark urine, followed by <i>jaundice</i> (yellowing of eyes and sometimes skin).</p> <p>Young children usually have no symptoms.</p>	<p>Often no symptoms, but if they do present, they include <i>jaundice</i> (see left), dark urine, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea and joint pain.</p>	
Symptoms in long term infection.	No long term infection.	Fatigue, nausea, muscle aches and pains, abdominal discomfort or jaundice.	
Treatment	Not usually required.	<p>Adefovir, Entecavir, Interferon and Lamivudine.</p> <p>Some people use complementary therapies (e.g. herbalism) to manage their symptoms.</p>	
Vaccine	Yes. It is safe and effective.	<p>Yes, it is safe and effective.</p> <p>Part of universal childhood vaccination.</p>	None available.
Prevention	<p>Get vaccinated.</p> <p>Household contacts and sexual partners of someone with hep A should have an injection of <i>immunoglobulin</i> (drugs that provide immediate short-term protection against particular diseases).</p> <p>Wash hands after going to the toilet and before eating.</p> <p>Practise safe sex.</p>	<p>Get vaccinated.</p> <p>Do not share equipment when injecting.</p> <p>Avoid other blood-to-blood contact.</p> <p>Practise safe sex.</p> <p>Newborn babies should be given an injection of <i>immunoglobulin</i> (see left) within twelve hours of birth.</p>	<p>Do not share equipment when injecting drugs.</p> <p>Avoid other blood-to-blood contact</p>

## MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS ABLE TO RELY ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND DISREGARD GENITALIA

Hi there,

A couple of weeks ago I asked the marriage celebrant section in Canberra about marrying a male as my [British] birth certificate now says I am female. I also asked if a marriage celebrant who thought I might still be considered male had a right to ask what genitals I had. Here is the answer.

Dear Sarah,

*We write in reply to your email dated 2 November 2007. As you have a British birth certificate which states you are a female, under the Australian Marriage Act 1961 there are no legal obstacles for you to marry a man in NSW, nor indeed in any other State or Territory of Australia. In our view a marriage celebrant is not entitled to ask you what genitals you have. We hope this information assists you.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Marriage Celebrants Section*

*Ph: 02 6234 4800*

*Fax: 02 6234 4811*

[www.ag.gov.au/celebrants](http://www.ag.gov.au/celebrants)

Obviously this doesn't mean that the Attorney General wouldn't seek to void the marriage on the grounds that I still have male bits. But since the Kevin and Jennifer case he would have a much harder task and probably fail.

Sarah

## MUSIC CLIP TO BE BASED ON TRANSGENDER

I recently did an essay on "Being Transgender" and I am very passionate about this issue as my dearest friend is transgender. I see the pain and constant struggle he deals with every day. I dread that one day he will just give up. Because I am so

driven towards making change I have decided to do a music clip based on the transgender struggle, the dark and lonely existence that they endure on a day to day basis.

I am in a band called Transphobia and am going to do a clip for a song called "Deadman". This song was written by a transgender called Kat Dahl who committed suicide just before the song was released. She used to be the drummer in the band "X". The band, who recorded "Deadman" was called Tongue.

I have permission to use the song and would like to dedicate the clip to Kat and to everyone who is transgender.

We are mind-mapping the idea right now and should start filming early in 2008. I was wondering if there are any transgender people who would like to be involved in this project or be in the clip. If so, give them my phone numbers [I have the numbers for anyone interested. Ed.]. I live in the Blue Mountains (Katoomba) so it might be a fair hike for people but I live in a large home so they are welcome to crash with me. Filming will be walking distance from the house. I can't afford to pay actors, but the clip will go to a worthwhile cause, to bring about awareness and at the same time be punchy and confronting.

Some scenes will be on a local bush track, others in a Katoomba night-club setting.

I am going to try for a grant to start a one-woman show based on 'being transgender'. The film clip is the beginning of my one-woman show project.

Pixie Blue [real name supplied]

*If anyone is interested in taking part in Pixie Blue's project, contact me on 9569 2366 and I'll put you in touch with Pixie. Kate Cummings*

## Default is Female

Default is Female is not an organisation as defined by legal requirements and is therefore currently unincorporated.

Initially this site will concentrate on NSW but as Medicare and the problem are national, information the other States will be added as it comes to hand.

The *Mediguide* produced for Medicare providers says:

*"Medicare was introduced in 1984 to provide eligible Australian residents with affordable, accessible and high quality health care.*

*Health care is funded by the Australian Government through grants to State governments towards the operation of public hospitals."*

*Benefits for Medicare public hospital patients*

*"Medicare patients are entitled to free treatment in a public hospital. Free treatment includes accommodation and medical treatment as an in-patient or out-patient (as well as accident and emergency services) provided by doctors allocated by the hospital. No medical or hospital accounts are raised."*

Medicare legislation allows for the multiple procedures used in genital modification to be performed free of charge in public hospitals. Despite this, however, State and Territory governments do not provide the necessary surgery for people with transsexualism in the public hospital system.

*Default is Female* seeks to lobby the State Government to provide transsexuals with access to surgery

This item supplied  
courtesy of Sarah  
Farmer.

[http://  
defaultisfemale.org/  
index2.php](http://defaultisfemale.org/index2.php)

*Katherine's Diary, the story of a transsexual, revamped, updated, uncut.*

Reviewed by Tracie O'Keefe

This is an updated, expanded and uncensored version of a previous autobiography published in 1992 that won an Australian Human Rights Non-Fiction Award. Kate, as she is known to close friends (and there seem to be a profusion of them in her book) tells all. The title of this edition is *Katherine's Diary, the story of a transsexual, revamped, updated, uncut*. As a highly qualified librarian by profession she seems to have kept notes of practically every day of her life. For 400 pages she rattles off endless adventures, people she met including Clive James, Edward de Bono and Madame Lash, places she went and her ultimate journey from husband and father of three to matron of seventy-three with a continuing consummate thirst for life, even after open-heart surgery and demonisation by the Catholic Church.

This book is very well written and honest with the reader getting a sense of being on life's adventure with the author through the highs, lows and at times bizarre detours, almost as if one were in a road movie.

There are also many pictures taken over seventy years illuminating Katherine's perpetual experimentation and reinvention of what John/Katherine was, fantasised about becoming and eventually became. It is written in digestible chapters which makes it great

bedtime reading, but don't count on getting any sleep, and the faint-hearted and puritans should keep large supplies of holy water by the bed. Her prose is indeed deliciously characteristic of her personality as she turns her phrases soulfully, never playing to the stalls but giving the reader the full colour of her experiences and anecdotes.

The author digs deep as the reader witnesses

her relentless seeking out of what at times is a difficult journey, her path to transition at fifty-plus years old. The loss of her wife and daughters is explored and mourned as Katherine berates herself about what she might have

done differently to stay close to them; reeling from the divorce from her wife who seems to have been one of the major loves of her life. This work does explore the dilemma faced by families when one partner, apparently a part-time transvestite develops into full-blown transsexualism, (though Katherine prefers to describe herself as transgendered).

Many people like John have another gendered *alter personality* in a suitcase for half a century, only to discover the more they try to

repress their other self the more the other self takes over. For Katherine there seem to have been no real regrets about having been John, fallen in love with the wife and fathered three daughters. Katherine might, however, have given any descendants with a nautical bent, lots to think about with pictures of her astride a cabin cruiser in shiny stilettos with five-inch heels. The secret lives of librarians it seems are far more spectacular than the popular image of bespectacled, reserved, custodians imposing noise restrictions in a university reading room.



Kate afloat

Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH is a clinical hypnotherapist, psychotherapist and counsellor at the Australian Health and Education Centre, Glebe. [[www.tracieokeefe.com](http://www.tracieokeefe.com)]

***Katherine's Diary* (2007) is available from selected bookshops (Gleebooks, The Bookshop Darlinghurst, Hares and Hyenas (Melbourne), UNSW bookshop etc, or it can be ordered direct from Beaujon Press at PO Box 742, Woy Woy, NSW, 2256. RRP A\$35.00 post free within Australia. ISBN 978 0 9803653 0 6**



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

## problems?

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

## questions?

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

## concerns?

**Hours**  
9am - 5pm  
Monday and Tuesday only  
Email:  
counsellortgc@bigpond.com.au  
Gaye 9569 2366



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

## NSW Seahorse Society

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

Call us on **0423.125.860** and our website is:  
[www.seahorsesoc.org](http://www.seahorsesoc.org)  
Email: [crossdress@seahorsesoc.org](mailto:crossdress@seahorsesoc.org)

**"crossdress with dignity"**

## Central Coast Group Forming

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

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

## Gender Affirmation and Liberation (GAAL)

- GAAL is committed to providing a service to: People with the condition of Gender Dysphoria and who are in the process of affirming gender identity by hormonal and/or surgical means or have already done so.
- GAAL aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for people in the process of gender affirmation or who have affirmed their true gender to share experiences.
- **Social Activites.** We also have social occasions where we actively encourage the participation of friends, family, partners and other support groups. We hold regular meetings on the third Monday of each month at a venue in South Yarra. GAAL: PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072
- Or call our message bank: (03) 9517 1237 and one of our committee members will contact you as soon as possible or you can write to us. If you need to contact us urgently Ph: 0425 785 666

## Central Coast Transgender Support

The CCTS was started in the 1990s and is a totally free and unfunded service to all with gender related issues. Its primary function is to offer guidance to all who are contemplating commencement of the Medical and Psychological requirements that are involved in full M to F Transition under the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care.

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

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

**Tel: 0404 054 000**

**Email: *smh101@exemail.com.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***

It is difficult to know where to start (or stop!) a review of a work as deep and broad as this book, so I'm just going to dive right in.

Like any good feminist text, the book focuses on sexism, privilege, misogyny, objectification, mystification, and discrimination. Unlike most feminist texts however, this text focuses on traditional and oppositional sexism, cissexual privilege, trans-misogyny, trans-objectification, trans-mystification, and discrimination against trans people.

Julia proposes that sexism actually comes in two flavours, oppositional and traditional. She defines *oppositional sexism* as "the belief that female and male are rigid, mutually exclusive categories" and uses it to explain transphobia and homophobia. She defines *traditional sexism* as "the belief that maleness and masculinity are superior to femaleness and femininity" and uses it to define misogyny.

Julia defines *cissexual privilege* as "the double standard that promotes the idea that transsexual genders are distinct from, and less legitimate than, cissexual genders". Julia believes that this results from an excessive sense of entitlement that sees cissexuals judging transsexuals. One result of this is that cissexual experts (e.g. Germaine Greer, Michael Bailey) are often presumed to be in a better position to critique our gender identities than we are.

Misogyny is the "tendency to dismiss and deride femaleness and femininity" and *trans-misogyny* is its natural extension to trans people. Historically, masculinity has been considered superior to femininity and males superior to females. A central point of the book is that while feminism has made progress on the latter misconception, the former prejudice lingers on, even amongst feminists. Masculinity is supposedly the normal, natural way and femininity is considered artificial, insincere and many people seem incapable of accepting it as a genuine expression of one's personality rather than

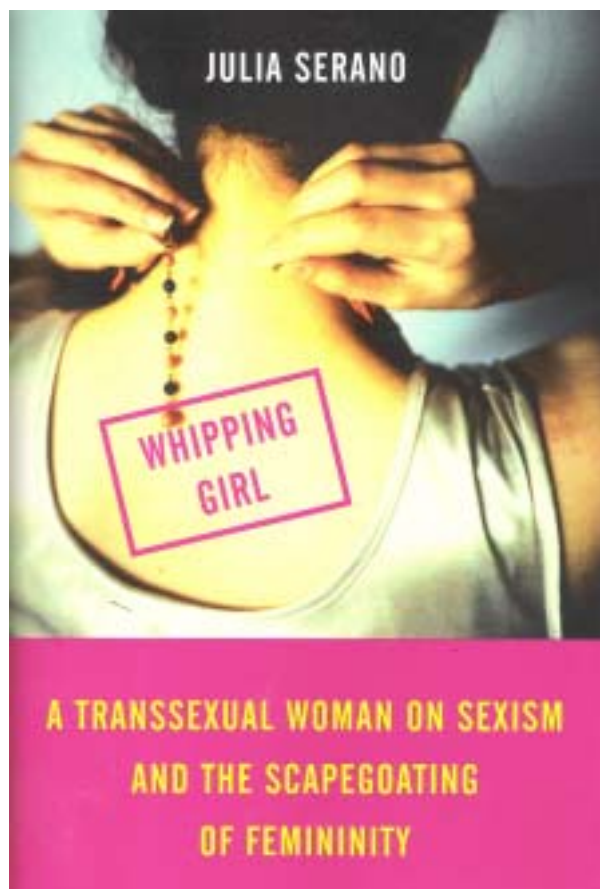
as a tool for attracting men. Julia's proposition is that this is the main reason that trans women face as much prejudice as they do, even from within the queer community. This proposition appears to be confirmed by the low regard with which femmes are regarded in the lesbian community and by the gay community's preference for straight-acting (i.e. masculine) men.

*Trans-objectification* is the reduction of trans people to their body parts or lack thereof. Many feminists have commented on men's magazines' penchant for objectifying women, judging them solely by the shape of their bodies. Julia discusses the extension of this

phenomenon to trans people, especially trans women. I think most trans people have witnessed trans-objectification firsthand on many occasions – people almost never ask strangers about their genitals but they usually feel that they are entitled to make ours their business. Trans men are rarely objectified to the same extent as trans women, which suggests that trans-objectification occurs as the result of misogyny rather than just as the result of transphobia. Ironically, I find this somewhat comforting – Julia's theory is that we are objectified in this fashion precisely because of our femininity.

Just as men have always found women mystifying, so do cissexuals find transsexuals mystifying. Julia uses *trans-mystification* to refer to the cissexual tendency to forget that while to them transsexuality is a mysterious and taboo magic trick, for us it is normal, even mundane.

Like any minority, especially a marginalised one, transsexuals are vulnerable to discrimination. The especially sad thing is that some of the discrimination against us comes from within the queer community. The best-known American example is the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival but the problem does occur in Australia, as evidenced by Tracie O'Keefe's experience with





Sappho's Party. Julia argues that many of the reasons advanced to exclude trans women from such events are in fact anti-feminist. A very common claim is that trans women possess a "male energy" that cissexual women are incapable of possessing, which does seem to be a very anti-feminist argument for purported feminists to make. Another common claim is that trans women, by virtue of possessing or having possessed a penis, are men – Julia argues very convincingly that such a phallogocentric viewpoint is harmful to feminism rather than beneficial.

Not all trans people will find the book flattering. Julia questions the increasingly common practice among American trans men of continuing to participate in womyn-born-womyn's groups (e.g. the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival), claiming that they are not really men. It stands to reason that if trans men aren't really men, then trans women aren't really women either, so this undermines acceptance of trans women's gender identities within the lesbian community. Given that the "womyn-born-womyn-only" crowd's acceptance of trans men appears to hinge on the belief that trans men cannot ever possess genuine "male energy", this behaviour appears to undermine the



Julia Serano

gender identities of both trans men and trans women. I have attended a few lesbian events in Sydney that welcome trans people and have yet to encounter one that welcomed trans men while refusing entry to trans women, so hopefully this is one fashion we will not import from the US – when I have been at such events, I saw the trans men there as allies rather than rivals and I really do prefer it that way.

Julia writes well and does a very good job of arguing her points. While I do not agree with everything Julia writes in her book, I found myself in total agreement with her on most things. Some of my own experiences parallel hers and what she expresses in her writings seems pretty close to my own feelings in most of these areas, so I couldn't help but be moved by it. In other parts of her book, she makes arguments

that would have never previously occurred to me and which make me question how I have dealt with cissexuals and cissexual privilege in the past, so reading it could prove to be a life-changing experience. It's a very fine work of transfeminist literature and I would recommend it to trans people of any gender, to feminists, and to anyone with even a passing interest in gender studies.

**Julia Serano.** Julia has a PhD in Biochemistry from Columbia University and is currently employed as a researcher at University of California, Berkeley, in the fields of evolutionary and developmental biology. She is also a performance artist and has been featured at many conferences and on university campuses, as well as high-profile events such as Ladyfest, Trans March stages, the "Vagina Monologues" and the National Queer Arts Festival. Her writings have been used as teaching materials in college-level gender courses across the United States.

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

**Delilah Slack-Smith.** Del is a thirty-five-year old out-and-proud transsexual living in Sydney who identifies as a femme lesbian. She works as a software engineer and enjoys skiing, kung fu, going to lesbian venues (where she receives both flattering compliments and bigoted remarks), and drinking wine and beer. She says that unless you wish to become her lover, her genitals are none of your business.

Editorial note: While agreeing with Delilah Slack-Smith that *Whipping Girl* is an outstanding and thoughtful book on relationships between sexes and genders and society's treatment of both, I wonder how many readers will be confused by Serano's coinage "cissexualism". The cis- prefix is rare in current usage and most people will only have come across it in the context of Cisalpine (the Roman term for anything on their side of the Alps). The cis-, trans- combination occurs in scientific contexts such as cis-trans isomerism, where a complex chemical compound with a double-bond has like groups on the same side of the plan of the double bond called the cis-form while like groups on opposite sides are called the trans-form. Serano is the only person to my knowledge who has transferred the concept into gender literature. And now I've probably confused you more than you were before. Read the book. It is clearly and intelligently written and full of new thoughts and analyses. Well worth while! KC

## **HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC VIOLENCE COME UNDER THE MAYORAL SPOTLIGHT**

The Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, accompanied by the Police Minister, David Campbell, the Labor candidate for the State seat of Wentworth, George Newhouse, and



**Clover Moore**

a drag queen, Maxi Shield, toured sections of the Oxford Street area in October, 2007, attempting to assess the amount of homophobic violence in the area.

There had been nine cases reported by the police of assault related to “sexual preference prejudice” in the area in 2007 compared with only two the previous year.

Ms Moore suggested that the area was changing its nature, with many people from ‘outside’ coming to larger venues which have recently been established.

“Nowadays there are about 10,000 people around Oxford Street on Friday and Saturday nights,” she said, “There is much more binge drinking which I believe has led to street violence.”

The tour resulted from a report that the gay and lesbian community intend to set up their own security for the area and are calling for volunteers

with policing. military, security or medical experience.

Mr Campbell pointed out the queues of people waiting to enter cubs as being danger points for potential violence.

“Queues are a big issue ... partygoers become agitated and more likely to engage in violence while waiting around,” he said.

Maxi Shield said she had often been a victim of discrimination during her ten years of performing in the Oxford Street area.

“I’ve been spat on, verbally abused and had eggs thrown at me,” she said. “It’s because so many people from outside this area come in and think it is one big freak show.”

Mr Campbell said that anyone who is a victim of homophobic [or transphobic] assault should contact the police immediately.

## **GAY LABOUR MP IN NEW ZEALAND APPLAUDS REMOVAL OF “GAY PANIC” DEFENCE**

Charles Chauvel, MP, has spoken approvingly of the decision by New



**Charles Chauvel, MP**

Zealand’s Law Commission to remove the “gay panic” defence

which formerly allowed a person charged with murder to claim temporary insanity resulting from a sexual advance by a gay person.

This defence has, in the past, resulted in murder charges being reduced to manslaughter.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer, President of the Law Commission, said, “We do not believe that such circumstances offer a valid excuse for murder. Intentional killing in anger in any circumstances is inexcusable.”

The “gay panic” defence has been used in cases of violence against transgender persons as well as homosexuals. The defence is most often used in the United States, particularly in areas where homophobia is common.

Chauvel said, “If a man is on the receiving end of an unwanted advance from another man then he needs to learn to say ‘no’.”

## **PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN APOLOGISES TO HEP C VICTIMS**

A scandal over tainted blood products has led to an apology from the Prime Minister of Japan, Yasuo Fukuda.

Fukuda has said that legislation will be passed to compensate anyone who contracted hepatitis C from the tainted products.

Victims of the tainted products had rejected a government proposal which had aimed to pay sufferers according to the date on which they had been given the tainted blood.

At least 10,000 patients are said to have been infected with hep C with most cases related to fibrinogen, a coagulant used to stop bleeding during surgery or childbirth, which was marketed in Japan after it had been withdrawn in the United States

in 1977. In October 2007 the government was embarrassed when it was admitted that data had been held by the Health Ministry which would have helped to identify or warn hundred of hepatitis sufferers



**Yasuo Fukuda**

before their disease became worse. Patients had asked Fukuda for a meeting for some weeks but were rejected by the PM's office, despite media criticism.

The meeting was held after polls showed the support for Fukuda and his government had fallen to just over thirty per cent.

**TRANSGENDER DENIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE CHANGE**

A New South Wales transgender has been denied a revised birth certificate despite having undergone an orchidectomy. The regulations refer to "irreversible gender change surgery" but do not define the operations which qualify.

Since orchidectomy is irreversible, and is a recognised stage on the way to gender reassignment, it seems unjustified to refuse a person who has undergone this surgery, and is living in the full-time role of her innate gender, revised documentation.

Birth certificates are often demanded by potential employers and it is

clearly unjust for a transgender to be required to 'out' herself in a new employment situation..

**WOMAN WHO MARRIED INTERSEX HAS MARRIAGE QUASHED IN USA**

A woman from New Zealand who married an American intersexed man has had her marriage licence revoked and has been forced to leave the United States.

The intersex man had a birth certificate which showed him as female following a court order in 2000 which changed his birth certificate to female after a series of mistakes and misunderstandings.

The intersex man, Stephanie Calewatts, 58, said he had surgery done for health reasons, not in order to have his gender reclassified. He has stated that he will take the matter to the Federal Court. He had his testicles removed in Montreal in 2000 and was issued with a new birth certificate showing female gender.

"I thought I was going to have two birth certificates," Calewatts said, "One of each. Big deal. I was born with two genders. I can't have sexual intercourse because nothing works."

**NZ INSURANCE COMPANIES TOLD TO CEASE DEFERRING COMPLICATED CASES**

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission has ruled that insurance companies should not delay decisions on the insurance of difficult cases. The Commission had received complaints from people who are unable to obtain mortgages because of their exceptional circumstances.

The Human Rights Act of 1993 states that insurers cannot refuse to insure people, but must do whatever is necessary to estimate an appropriate

premium rate to take account of exceptional circumstances.

One case concerned "Lucy", a transgender woman, whose case had been deferred for a year by an insurer who said she "fell outside the company's guidelines". As soon as the Human Rights Commission was called in, the insurer found it possible to insure her.

The Commission's guidelines do not have the force of law but are considered important because fewer disputes are brought to court, most being settled by mutual agreement out of court, and often with non-disclosure clauses in the agreements.

**MORE ISRAELI TRANSGENDERS TRANSITIONING**

According to statistics published by the Health Ministry of Israel, more Israelis are undergoing sex-affirmation. This is particularly true of Israeli women.

In 2007 twenty-seven Israelis underwent sex affirmation procedures, fifteen women and twelve men.

In 2006 only ten people went through gender change and from 1995 to 2005 there were a total of thirty transitions. Gender ratios for those years has not been given.



Only one clinic in Israel provides sex-change operations, using a team of surgeons whose schedules are sometimes difficult to co-ordinate, resulting in long delays in some cases for transgenders. In Israel gender procedures are provided in stages, not in a single session.



## 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)

**The RPA 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](mailto: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.

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

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

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

**Miss Beverly Buttercup via:  
email:**

**beverlybuttercup@hotmail.com**

**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**

# Wednesday 30 January 6.00pm

**HEP C Information  
Evening at the Gender  
Centre (7 Bent Street,  
Petersham)**

# Wednesday 6 February at 6.00pm

**HIV/AIDS Information  
evening at the Gender  
Centre**

## 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?

Mail to:

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

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

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, 7 Bent 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](http://www.glamourworld.net)

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

## May I Have Your Attention Please!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Desired Collectables**  
 Wholesalers of Intimate Lingerie and Footwear  
 ABN: 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:resourcestgc@bigpond.com) or by faxing details to 9569.1176 attention to *Polare* Editor. Advertisements are included in *Polare* based on the space available in the magazine. Advertisements in this section should not contain images or logos and should bear some specific relation to the transgender community. Services and goods provided by and for transgender people are preferred.



### New South Wales

#### THE GENDER CENTRE

##### Counselling

Provides counselling to residents and clients living in the community. For more information or an appointment contact the Counsellor on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday 10am - 5.00pm.

##### Outreach service

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

##### Social and support service

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

##### Resource development service

Produces a range of print resources on HIV/AIDS, medical and other information relevant to people with gender issues and their service providers. We provide printed information including a bi-monthly magazine *Polare* and a regularly updated website at: [www.gendercentre.org.au](http://www.gendercentre.org.au).

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

##### Drug and alcohol service

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

##### Residential service

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

Assessments for residency are by appointment only and can be arranged by contacting the Counsellor, Outreach worker or Social and Support worker.

##### For partners, families and friends

Support, education and referral to a wide range of specialist counselling, health, legal, welfare and other community services are available for partners, families

and friends of people with gender issues. For more information contact the Social and Support worker.

##### For service providers, employers and others

Advice, support and workshops are also available to employers, service providers, students and other people interested in gender issues. For more information contact the

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

Petersham NSW 2049

Tel: (02) 9569.2366

Fax: (02) 9569.1176

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

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

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

4pm-midnight seven days on

(02) 9207.2800

1800 805 379

<http://www.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](mailto:info@2010.org.au)

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

#### ACON-AIDSCOUNCIL OF NSW

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

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Tel: (02) 9206.2000

Fax: (02) 9206.2069

tty: (02) 9283 2088

#### ACON-HUNTER

129 Maitland Road

PO Box 220

Islington 2296

Tel: (02) 4927 6808

Fax: (02) 4927 6485

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

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

#### ACON-MID-NORTH COAST

4 Hayward Street

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: (02) 6584 0943

Fax: (02) 6583 3810

#### ACON-NORTHERN RIVERS

27 Uralba Street

Lismore NSW 2480

PO Box 6063

South Lismore NSW 2480

Tel: (02) 6622.1555

or 1 800 633 637

Fax: (02) 6622 1520

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

#### ACON-WESTERN SYDNEY

6 Darcy Road,

Wentworthville, 2145

Tel: (02) 9204 2400

Fax: (02) 9891 2088

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

#### AFAO (AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS)

National AIDS lobby and safe sex promotion organisation.

PO Box 51

Newtown 2042

Tel: (02) 9281.1999

Fax: (02) 9281.1044

#### ALBION STREET CENTRE

HIV testing, clinical management, counselling and support, treatment and trials for HIV/AIDS.

Tel: (02) 9332.1090

Fax: (02) 9332.4219

#### ANKALI

Volunteer project offering emotional support for People Living with HIV/AIDS, their partners, friends and carers. One on one grief and bereavement service.

Tel: (02) 9332.1090

Fax: (02) 9332.4219

#### ASTRA (ASSOCIATION OF SEXY TRANSVESTITES)

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

PO Box 502, Glebe NSW 2037

#### BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION (BGF)

Provides direct financial assistance, financial counselling, employment support and supported housing to people in NSW disadvantaged as a result of HIV/AIDS.

Tel: (02) 9283 8666

free call 1800 651 011

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

[bgf@bgf.org.au](mailto:bgf@bgf.org.au)

#### BREASTSCREEN

Phone 132050

#### CENTRAL TABLELANDS TRANSGENDER

##### INFORMATION SERVICE

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

Operates 9 am - 8pm Mon - Fri

Tel: 0412 700 924

#### (CSN) COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

Transport and practical home based care for PLWHA. Volunteers welcome. Training provided.

Sydney Mon-Fri 8.00am-6.00pm

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills

Tel: (02) 9206.2031

Fax: (02) 9206.2092

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

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

#### Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 9204 2400

Fax: 9891 2088

[csn-westsyd@acon.org.au](mailto:csn-westsyd@acon.org.au)

6 Darcy Rd, Wentworthville, 2145

PO Box 284, Westmead, 2145

#### Hunter

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4927 6808\Fax 4927 6485

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

129 Maitland Road, Islington, 2296

PO Box 220, Islington, 2296

#### MacKillop Centre - Hunter

Training and development opportunities for PLWHA

Tel: 4968 8788

#### Illawarra

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4226 1163

Fax: 4226 9838

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

47 Kenny St, Wollongong, 2500

POB 1073, Wollongong 2500

#### Mid North Coast

Outreach project: by appointment

Tel: 6584 0943

Fax: 6583 3810

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

4 Hayward St, Port Macquarie, 2444

POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

#### FOLEY HOUSE

A safe and supportive residential service for people living with HIV/AIDS who have complex needs. Treatment program includes case management and life skills educational groups. Clients can be referred to a wide range of medical, welfare and psychological services. Clients

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

6-8 Bellevue St, Surry Hills  
PO Box 331, Surry Hills NSW  
2010

Tel: (02) 9211.0544  
Fax:(02)9211.0778  
[admin@foley.org.au](mailto:admin@foley.org.au)

### www.foley.org **FTMAustralia**

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](http://www.ftmaustralia.org)  
[mail@ftmaustralia.org](mailto: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 SEXUALHEALTHCLINIC**

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 COMMUNITYCHURCH**

MCC Sydney is linked with other MCC churches in Australia as part of an international fellowship of Christian churches, with a special concern for any who feel excluded by established religious groups. MCC deplors all forms of prejudice, discrimination and oppression - and seeks to share God's unconditional love and acceptance of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, race or gender.

96 Crystal Street, Petersham 2049

Phone: (02) 9569.5122

Fax: (02) 9569.5144

Worship Times:

Sundays 10.00 am & 7.30 pm

[mcc@eagles.bbs.net.au](mailto:mcc@eagles.bbs.net.au)

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

### **MOUNTDRUITTLUXFORD ROADCLINIC**

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

Ph: (02) 9881 1733

Mon 1.00pm-4.00pm

Wed 9.00am-12.30pm

Fri 9.00am-12.30pm

Every second Thursday 9.00am-12.30pm

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 AIDSASSOCIATION**

A peer-based community organisation providing education on safe injecting, safe using and safe sex. Information on services for injecting drug users. Free needles, swabs, water, spoons, condoms, dams, gloves and lube. Free newsletter and material on HIV and AIDS and other topics of interest or concern to people using drugs illicitly..

345 Crown St, Surry Hills, NSW  
2010

# Directory Assistance

PO Box 278, Darlinghurst, NSW,  
1300

Tel: (02) 8354 7300

Tollfree:1800.644.413

Fax: (02) 8354 7350

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

### **PARRAMATTA SEXUAL HEALTHCLINIC**

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

Level 2, Parramatta Health Service,

158 Marsden (cnr. George St)

Parramatta 2150

Ph: (02) 9843 3124

Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

Tue 10.00am-4.00pm

Thu 4.00pm-7.30pm

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

PO Box 831, Darlinghurst NSW  
2010

Tel: (02) 9361.6011

Fax: (02) 9360.3504

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

### **Katoomba:**

P.O. Box 187

Katoomba NSW 2780

Tel: (02) 4782.2119

<http://www.hermes.net.au/plwha/>

[plwha@hermes.net.au](mailto:plwha@hermes.net.au)

### **POSITIVE WOMEN**

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

Tel: (02) 9206.2000

<http://www.acon.org.au/education/womens/campaigns.htm>

### **REPIDU**

Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users

Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm Sat & Sun,  
1 - 5 Deliveries Tue, Fri 6 - 9

151 Pitt St, Redfern, NSW, 2016

Tel: (02) 9699.6188

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

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

Ph: 0421 479 285

Email:

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

### **SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW**

The Seahorse Society is an incorporated non-profit self help group funded entirely by members' contributions. Membership is open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a newsletter.

PO Box 168, Westgate, NSW 2048  
or Tel: 0423125 860

[www.seahorsesoc.org](http://www.seahorsesoc.org)  
[crossdress@seahorsesoc.org](mailto:crossdress@seahorsesoc.org)

**SOUTH COAST of NSW** from Ulladulla to the VIC Border. We are a group of like-minded people trying to establish a social and support group. Jen Somers, Sexual Health Counsellor, Narooma Community Health Centre, Marine Drive

Narooma, NSW 2546

Tel: (02) 4476.1372

Mob: 0407 214.526

Fax: (02) 4476 1731

[jenni.somers@sahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jenni.somers@sahs.nsw.gov.au)

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

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

PO Box 1354

Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Tel: (02) 9319.4866

Fax: (02) 9310.4262

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

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

0249 276 808

### **SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK**

Provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly people to get together in comfortable, safe and friendly spaces. Pub social in Newtown on ~~PO Box 206, Broadway NSW 2007~~  
~~Tel: (02) 9565 2281~~ ~~http://www.bisexualnetwork.com.au~~

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

<http://sbn.bi.org>

### **SYDNEY BISEXUAL PAGANS**

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

PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills  
NSW 2012

### **SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK**

Welcomes FTM Men.

PO Box 2064, Boronia Park, 2111

Tel: 9879.4979 (Paul Whyte)

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

### **SYDNEYSEXUALHEALTH CENTRE**

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

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

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

# Directory Assistance

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 Carrilon 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 type 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 experience of transgender medicine. Doctors, nurses and psychologist with referral to other services as required.  
The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital, The Esplanade, Cairns  
Ph: (07) 4050 6205

### GOLD COAST SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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

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

### QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE

Transsexual semi-supported accommodation available to those who identify as Transgender and who are drug and alcohol free. Accommodation available for six or twelve months.  
PO Box 386, Chermerside 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 - SEXUAL HEALTH

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

17 Phillips Street, Kensington,

SA. 5068 Tel: (08) 8431 5177

Fax: (08) 8364 2389

### (SATS) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

SATS C/o PO Box 907

Kent Town SA 5071

or the Gay and Lesbian Counselling

Service (Gayline) on: (08) 8422

8400 or country on 1800 182 223

or Sarah on 0409 091 663 or

www.tgfolk.net/sites/satsg/

hrt.html

email: satsgroup@yahoo.com.au

### GENDER AFFIRMATION AND LIBERATION

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

PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Tel: (03) 9517 1237

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

### PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF VICTORIA

#### RhED in the sex industry

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

### SEAHORSE CLUB OF VICTORIA Inc.

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

GPO Box 86, St Kilda, VIC, 3182

Tel: (03) 9513 8222

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

seahorsevic@mbox.com.au

### (TGV) TRANSGENDER VICTORIA

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

PO Box 762, South Melbourne, VIC, 3205

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

transgendervictoria@yahoo.com.au

www.vicnet.net.au/~victrans

### 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

### TRANSCOMMUNITY WA

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

## 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

## Western Australia

### CHAMELEON SOCIETY

Provides support to crossdressers, their relatives and friends.

PO Box 367,

Victoria Park WA 6979

Tel: 0418 908839 (8pm-10pm)

Email: chameleonswa@email.com

www.chameleonswa.com

### 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

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

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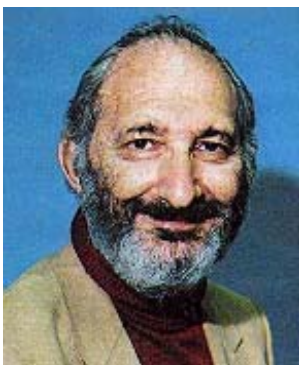
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