

April-June 2008

75

No.

CONTRIBUTORS

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zoebrain, kathy noble, mardi james

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THE FINE PRINT

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Polare A Magazine for people with gender issues
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Editor: Katherine Cummings

DEADLINE

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

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Publisher, The Gender Centre Inc., the NSW Department of Health or the Department of Community Services.
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Phinn's Report



Gold Phinn as
opposed to
Golfing or
Goldfinger

Hello, everyone, it's time again for *Polare*

What's been happening at the Centre in the months of January and February?

We had 283 visitors through the Centre, we ran a Self Esteem group, we held a HepC information night as well as an HIV/AIDS

information night, and our youth groups are going strong on Monday nights with Dash. The Gender Centre provided 100 meals to clients.

The Gender Centre is conducting two additional outreach shifts in March on Saturday nights in conjunction with the City of Sydney to conduct research on street based sex workers.

Could I remind every one that the Gender Centre, apart from being refuge accommodation, is also a working office and clients need to make appointments with staff in advance of their visits.

Phinn

Friday Drop Ins for 2008

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.

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

Aude Chalon (aud_mmsh@hotmail.com)

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

Are you a solicitor? Can you help one of our own, *pro bono*?

Julia Doulman (from the documentary "Becoming Julia") needs help to run an anti-discrimination case against the NSW Police. She is not asking for help for her own benefit alone ... if the case is won the whole transgender community will benefit. The problem relates to the refusal of the NSW Police to recognise name changes. If a police check is made on a person's identity and that person has a previous name which has been changed (by deed poll, by Anglicising a foreign name or by marriage) the police will reveal both the current name and the former name, treating the current name as an alias. The Anti-Discrimination Board has accepted Julia's case as having merit, but she will need legal support and cannot afford to retain a solicitor. If you are legally qualified and interested enough in transgender to be reading this magazine, this is your opportunity to do something for the community. When a transgender changes his or her name and obtains a new birth certificate from the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages the former name is sealed and cannot be revealed except by permission of the person concerned or by court order. We believe the NSW Police should be bound by the same rules.

Call 9569 2366 and ask for Katherine if you wish to help.

Editorial - Katherine Cummings



We all have families. I am not referring here to the families we make for ourselves, the friends, colleagues and lovers we accumulate after we have come out to the world and become the people we were always meant to be. I am writing here of the people to whom we are related by blood, or through marital ties.

These families come, in Mr Eastwood's immortal phrase, in various guises which can be defined as Good, Bad or Ugly.

The Good families are those who accept the diversity of nature and the truth that the person who transitions is the same as the person who has not yet transitioned.

They recognise that love is love, whether it wears pants or a skirt (or neither) and that love is seated in the brain, not the genitals and should be based on reason, not emotion. The cover image for this issue of *Polare* shows one such family. Zoe Brain has retained the love of her son and her partner and they are going forward in life in the belief that people love people and sex/gender is less important than 99% of the world seems to believe.

Read the words of Zoe Brain on the inside cover. "In Transition you usually lose everything. But not always. And marriages may change but close friendship and sisterhood remain. And always, always the love of a parent for child."

Everyone is different and everyone lives inside his/her own head, so my evaluation of a person is bound to be influenced by my own thoughts, beliefs, fears and experiences. Yet, for what it is worth, I think that Zoe is being repaid by her family for the love and care she invested in them when she was someone else.

The lucky part is that they have not forgotten who she was before they (and she) found out she is Zoe. And my belief that Zoe is an extraordinary person is reinforced by the item I printed about her in *Polare 74* when she demonstrated the true spirit of Christmas by making it financially possible for a transgendered woman to pay the legal costs to obtain custody of her child ("Always, always, the love of a parent..."). Zoe is an extraordinary person. She writes a blog on many, many subjects which interest her and this blog is fascinating and informative. One of her musings ("Five kinds of gender") appears in

this issue. There will be more of Zoe's thoughts in *Polare* in the future. Meanwhile on with the Families rant...

There are Bad families, and I use this term loosely, because usually Bad families aren't bad at all. They may be unthinking, self-centred, misled by popular prejudices or simply too selfish to let go of what they are comfortable with in order to make someone they have loved and who has loved (and probably still loves) them part of a new relationship.

Family love is too precious to be switched off without making every effort to keep it alive. The transgender who is transitioning is coping with many, many new aspects of life and may seem to be totally self-absorbed, but if the Bad families, the ones who believe they are the victims, would make more of an effort to keep love alive, I think in many cases they would succeed.

And then, alas, there are the Ugly. These are the families who actively persecute the transgender within their gates. They take every action open to them to make the transgender's life harder than it need be. They resort to social sanctions, to legal persecution, to lies and gossip and vilification in order to destroy the person who has, in the terms of their twisted code, let them down. Often there is little that can be done in response to this kind of cruelty, as it stays within the limits of the law, but on those occasions when it is possible to fight back, we should. We should use the law where it is appropriate; the media to put our point of view; truthful information to influence the minds of people who might otherwise be receptive to the lies and gossip that make it harder for transgenders to live tranquilly in society, stay in employment and persist with their education. We have legal, social and medical rights but we must have the courage to assert them or they will be eroded and undermined until the small gains we have made disappear back into the morass of bigotry and prejudice.

This *Polare* also carries a submission to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission by Kathy Noble, on the need to make it simpler for transgenders from Britain to be recognised in Australia and have their documentation revised accordingly. Kathy has included some highly evocative letters from victims of Australian policies. Kathy is a hard-working and determined toiler in the vineyard of tg rights and we thank her for her efforts..

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



NEEDLE EXCHANGE



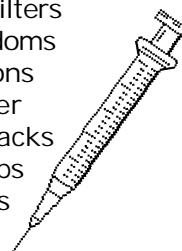
7 Bent Street,
PETERSHAM
(02) 9569 2366
10am-5.30pm

Monday to Friday

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

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Dams



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5ml
Needles
21g, 23g,
25g, 26g

or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr
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02 9331 2111
Country 009.42.2599

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6 - 8pm

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friends
- Free -*

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all welcome**

7 Bent Street, Petersham

FTMAustralia Information Sheet 2007

FTMAustralia 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 FTM Australia living in Australia and New Zealand.

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

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

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



This network is supported entirely by members

Are You Young, Transgendered and Literate?

Do You Want To Have Your Say?
We Want You To Have Your Say!

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

You are encouraged to contribute material for the July-September 2008 issue of *Polare*.

let the beautiful you shine
Make-up Application Department &
Self Esteem

Transgender Specialist

Sharon White

AGENCIES

(08) 8277 8085 Mob.0412 183 151

swa@bigpond.net.au

www.sharonwhiteagencies.com.au

Scientists say they may have found genes that help explain why a tiny percentage of men see themselves as women, cruelly trapped in the wrong body. The researchers say the findings are very preliminary and should be “interpreted with the utmost caution,” due to the small sample size used in their study.

Nonetheless, they say, the results might shed some light on the rare condition, transsexualism. It is estimated to afflict about one in 30,000 men, some of whom follow through on their sense of their correct gender by having sex-change operations.

More broadly, the research could help clarify one of the most contentious and poorly understood questions in biology: what creates “gender identity” the sense most people have that they are either a man or a woman.

The feeling is normally rather deep-seated; people don’t need to examine their body shapes to confirm it. It is also considered distinct from the issue of whom a person is sexually attracted to.

So what is Gender? [From *Transgendercare.com*]
From research and observation, I have developed a list of five semi-independent attributes of gender, as a map to help you to understand this complex often hotly emotional issue of gender.

Consider sexual identity/behavior (gender) springing from five semi-independent attributes:

Genetic Gender Our chromosomal inheritance.

Physical Gender Our primary and secondary sexual characteristics.

Brain Gender Functional structure of the brain, along gender lines.

Brain Sex Love/sex Patterns, How we relate to others on a social and interpersonal as well as sexual level. Love Maps.

Gender Identity ? Our subjective gender, our sexual Self-Map, how we feel ourselves to be: *male or female*.

Genetic gender can be rather mixed. Most people are 46,xy (male) or 46,xx (female) : but some are 47, xxy (Klinefelter male), some 45,xo (Turner Female), and then there’s mosaics and chimerae.

Physical gender usually follows the pattern laid down by the genes, but mutations such as Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome can turn genetic males into

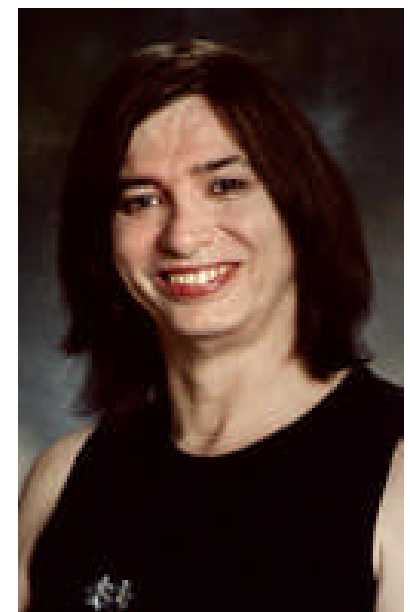
phenotypical females, and Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia the reverse.

Brain gender is reflected in behavioural differences measurable even in the earliest days of childhood:

Even a few hours after birth, significant behavioral differences are noted between morphologically “normal” boys and girls.

Newborn girls are much more sensitive to touch and sound than their male counterparts. Several day old girls spend about twice as long looking back at an adult face than boys, and even longer if the adult is speaking. A girl can distinguish between the cries of another infant from other extraneous noises long before a boy. Even before they can understand language, girls do better at identifying the emotional context of speech.

These behavioural differences are because there are significant morphological differences between male and female brain structures.



Zoe Brain

Brain Sex - Chicks dig Romance, Guys dig Big, er, are more concerned with physical appearance.

Female brained individuals cannot and do not separate how they feel about a person (good, bad, nice, boring, etc.) and how they see them sexually. They must feel positive about a person as an individual in order to sexually desire them. Male brained individuals have a distant disconnect between feelings about a person as an individual and as a sex object.

Males can easily, sometimes preferably, have sex with a person they don’t know, don’t like or even actively dislike. Love and sex are two different worlds for the male brained. These two worlds can come together, and for most this is preferred, but it is not necessary, and for some, not even desired.

Gender Identity -

The last of our five attributes, Gender Identity, is the last to be identified, and the least understood and researched.

Gender identity is one's subjective sense of one's own sex. Like pain, it is unambiguously felt but one is unable to prove or display it to others.

One's subjective gender is just as real and immalleable as one's physical gender but unfortunately not recognized in our culture. When one's Gender Identity does not match one's Physical Gender, the individual is termed Gender Dysphoric. Like minority Sexual Orientation, Gender Dysphoria is not pathological, but a natural aberration occurring within the population, like blue eyes. As with minority sexual orientation, the percentage of the population having gender dysphoria is in dispute, with estimates ranging between one in 39,000 individuals up to three percent of the general population. My experience leads me to feel that the higher figure (3%) is closer to the actual prevalence.

But how would you know? A man born into a female body, but adjusted to the situation is unlikely to tell his son and his husband "Oh by the way, mommy is actually a guy", and certainly not if he's a stunning blonde with a curvaceous figure and an acting career. It's only if the Gender Dysphoria becomes too much to be borne that this all comes out - and the individual concerned often gets Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS), where their body tissues are modified to more closely approximate the body they know they should have had.

It is this phenomenon, Gender Identity, that the research shows may in fact be genetically determined.

I'm still waiting on my chromosome analysis results - which amongst other things, should tell me what genetic sex I am. Because you never can tell just by appearances.

Reprinted with kind permission from the Blog of Zoe Brain

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.

resources@gendercentre.org.au

KC

Winter Solstice Barbecue

Sunday 22nd June

12 Noon - 4.00pm



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
Email: 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 free.

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

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

If you want more information or are interested in assisting with the project please telephone, write or e-mail the Queensland Gender Centre (see p.38 for contact details)

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 Gina (0247 511 402)

We will soon be in other areas

Sex and Gender Education (SAGE) Needs You!

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

Membership is FREE!

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


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

and sign up to our low-volume mailing list

For more information visit our website

www.sageaustralia.org

SAGE - campaigning for your rights!



A.I. Electrology
A.A.B.Th. CIDESCO. ITEC (France)
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Email: aie101@bigpond.net.au

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Midmark M9 Autoclave Sterilisation used in this salon.
Justice of the Peace on site for your assistance

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

Subsidised Rates apply for anyone undergoing the Gender Reassignment

 Polare is available in pdf format on the Gender Centre Website (www.gendercentre.org.au) Sooner and in Colour!!!

DO YOU HAVE HEPATITIS C?

ARE YOU CURRENTLY EMPLOYED?

OR ON LEAVE FOR HEALTH-RELATED REASONS?

If you live in the Hunter Region of New South Wales, we would like you to help us with a research project exploring the employment experiences of people living with chronic hepatitis C.

The research project is being run through the University of New South Wales.

It will involve a confidential review lasting about an hour at a place and time convenient to you.

If you are interested in taking part in this project and would like to know more, please contact Nadine Krejci:

ph/sms: 0432 979 039 email: nadine.krejci@student.unsw.edu.au

Counsellor's Page

Issue Seventy-five

Dear Reader,

Greetings to you for 2008 and, if you're pausing for Easter, I hope it's a good one.

For this issue of *Polare* I would like to make some comments about the internet in relation to my counselling experience.

Firstly, the internet provides us with limitless sites to visit and an opportunity to inform others and ourselves. It also provides us with the means to mislead others and distance ourselves from our fellow humans. When searching for information, or making connections with people, the internet can provide a rewarding experience for the seeker. On the other hand, when reading potential scam emails or being obliged to access a particular site to read instructions or complete a form, for instance, the internet may become an annoyance and the tasks carried out impersonal and tedious ones.

What about the information accessed - its merit? What about the connections made? I ask these questions not to undermine the usefulness of the internet, but to pass on my observations that sometimes the volume of information, which is sometimes misinformation, can be overwhelming to people who are trying to figure out what to do next with their lives. Talking to an internet friend may be helpful when it is not possible to talk with friends in person, or when it's not possible to confide in these friends - it can be a life-line. Most of the time, however, we live in the "non-internet" world and human face-to-face contact is a part of this world.

It is my view that if we function primarily in the "internet world", life passes us by. If the internet is a facilitator for human contact, then it's an enabler, a medium of communication; but if it's replacing human contact (hearing the tone of someone's voice, seeing someone's expressions, perhaps the touch of someone's hand, then I'm not sure what it is - it subsumes us. An eerily prescient world in which humans are distanced from nature and one another - even their own senses, is described by E.M. Forster in his short story "The Machine Stops" (1909). In an exchange between a mother and child, the child says:

"I want to see you not through the Machine," said Kuno. "I want to speak to you not through the wearisome Machine."

"Oh hush!" said his mother, vaguely shocked. "You mustn't say anything against the Machine."

And what about the volume and quality of "information" available from the modern internet? The onus is on the

seeker to evaluate its merit, its accuracy, and to decide when an *opinion* is being offered as opposed to a *fact*. And that can be difficult as sometimes opinions and unsubstantiated "research" are presented as fact. As free thinkers, we have the option to accept or decline information and opinions. But do we always have the means to do so?

As for accessing information in relation to deciding on a course of action, in particular life-changing or affirming surgery, the comments of a guest speaker to a former counselling group come to mind: What is the agenda of the person offering the "information" or advice? Has the person imparting the information or opinion a personal investment in it (a belief in helping others, validation of a choice made, a financial interest in advocating a particular service or person, disappointment with a decision made, sheer malice)? And what is the authority and/or experience of the person offering the opinion or information? And what questions do you need to ask yourself? What outcome do you want? What is important to you? What support do you have? What is your financial situation?

You may seek counselling to wade through your information overload and work out how the information accessed from the internet best suits you and your hopes for yourself and your future.

If you're not comfortable with formal counselling, there may be someone in your family or in your community whom you trust (to keep your confidence, to make sound decisions, to respect your decisions) to talk over the information you come across in relation to your thoughts about your future.

So if you're exploring the internet but feeling unsure, overloaded, or may be you're not able to work the 'net and feeling left out and lacking information, reach out - connect in person (my suggestion).

NB. Although the spell check told me to capitalise the word "internet" (as it is a noun referring to a complex device), I have chosen not to as it is my opinion that it gives the device/ the machine more power than it needs.

Gaye

Editorial note: At the end of this column I came across Gaye's final sentence, idiosyncratically downgrading the word "Internet" to a common noun ... just as I had finished changing the spelling throughout ... so I went back and changed it all back again! [sigh] Poor [I]nternet! KC

Gender Recognition for Expatriates from the United Kingdom (or GR by GRP for TGs from GB&I) by Kathy Noble

STANDARD TRACK application using the CASE BY CASE BASIS.

You are eligible to apply for Gender Recognition if you are:

- o at least 18 years of age, and
- o have lived in your acquired gender or have been recognised under the law of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom as having changed gender.

Things to consider before applying for Gender Recognition:

If you are successful in your application for Gender Recognition, the law will recognise you as having all the rights and responsibilities appropriate to a person of your acquired gender. A successful application may affect some aspects of your life. These could relate to matters such as your pension entitlements, your benefit entitlements or your marriage.

The Gender Recognition Panel is aware that some applicants living overseas face difficulties with the evidence needed to satisfy the *Gender Recognition Act 2004*, especially the requirement to submit medical report/s by a General Medical Council (GMC) registered Practitioner.

To alleviate this difficulty, the Gender Recognition Panel is prepared to consider, on a case by case basis, reports by a GMC registered practitioner practising in the field of gender dysphoria who has read the medical report/s by non-GMC medical practitioners and is able to confirm the information and opinion contained in the report(s). This does not affect the statutory requirements for reports from two registered medical practitioners in support of applications.

Guidance for married people or those in a Civil Partnership: Section 4(3) *Gender Recognition Act 2004* requires the panel on considering an application for a Gender Recognition Certificate to issue an interim and not a full GRC where the applicant is married or a civil partner. The reason for this provision is that if the marriage is not terminated or the civil partnership ended the issue of a full GRC would have the effect of creating a same sex marriage or opposite sex civil partnership which are not allowed under UK law.

It is recognised that some couples do not want to end their existing relationship on the grant of a full GRC. They would need to end their existing marriage or civil partnership on the issue of the interim certificate and then enter into a new civil partnership or marriage, as

appropriate, on the granting of the full GRC.

This is for applicants for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) and Birth Certificate (BC) residing outside of UK. All usual requirements included in the application are the same with the exception of the following.

We now have two GMC registered doctors to contact in Australia. One is Dr Steinbeck in Sydney and the other is Dr Kielty in Brisbane. Please contact me with any queries on knoble@iinet.net.au or (07) 3286 9155

To achieve a Case by Case Basis application you need to:

A Find a General Medical Council (GMC) registered GP practising in the country that you now reside in. Don't forget to note the doctor's GMC registration number.

The GP has to confirm that you have or have not had SRS.

If you have, what were the procedures used?

If not, then why not. Possible acceptable reasons are health considerations, financial problems or choice.

You must have lived in your preferred gender for a minimum of two years and must undertake to continue to do so for the rest of your life.

B Collect all paper work from your Psychiatrist concerning your Gender Dysphoria (GD) and from your surgeon concerning your SRS (Sex Reassignment Surgery). You also need to include a copy of your General Practitioner's report.

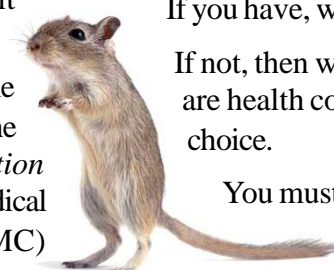
C Send all of these as copies to Dr James Barrett for him to collate the details into a report for the Gender Recognition Panel (GRP) in Leicester UK. Ask for his report to be sent to you. His charge is Sixty Pounds Sterling.

D When you have Dr Barrett's report you send it and the GP's report with Standard Application (obtainable from the GRP) to GRP, with their fee if applicable.

E All details are on the GRP web site for normal usage.

If you go into Applicants there is a paragraph under Explanatory Leaflets, please read. The web site is www.grp.gov.uk

F The address for Dr James Barrett is Gender Identity Clinic, Claybrook Centre, 37 Claybrook Road, London, W6 8LN, Great Britain



Looking back, I can now see just how stuck I was in my world in late 2007. It was many things - problems with work, losing a close friend to a new life in the US, feeling isolated and depressed within myself and just longing for some peace and quiet, away from the constant hubbub of the inner city.

I first learned about Petrea King's *Quest for Life Centre* from Gaye, the Gender centre counsellor, and later from Liz, my case manager. It sounded just like what I needed and I decided to pack my bags and exit Sydney for a few days for some much needed relaxation and healing. I had enrolled in the 'Healing Your Life' program, a five-day residential intensive course consisting of yoga and meditation, managing thoughts and working at getting back in the driver's seat of life. Oh, did I mention the mouth-watering, healthy meals (mostly meat-free), relaxed peace and idyllic location of Quest, at Bundanoon in the splendid New South Wales Southern Highlands?

I motored my way out of Sydney along the M5 in bumper-to-bumper traffic, packed with B doubles, semi-trailers and family sedans, groaning as they pulled caravans jammed with all the stuff needed for happy holidays during the Christmas break. It was like a mad race and I kept telling myself that it had to thin out soon and shortly I would be breathing fresh country air. It did thin out a bit, but I was always ready to take evasive action, should a rogue prime mover meander across my lane and add to the mayhem of Hume Highway traffic. My little Mazda was no match for the power and size of an gigantic eighteen-wheeler.

I turned off after Berrima and hit the country roads at last! I passed the town of Exeter and drove on towards Bundanoon, confident that I would make the drive out in less than two hours, which I did. I was already feeling better, with lush green country all around and soon enough I was entering the village of Bundanoon - a few shops, a pub and a railway station. *Quest* is located on the edge of town and I found it easily with the help of my map, thoughtfully provided by *Quest*.

As I drove along the winding driveway I was astonished to see a sprawling country house set in spacious grounds, surrounded by stands of giant pine trees and accommodation quarters off to the side of the compound.

I was impressed and keenly anticipated some quality time spent in such a peaceful place. The abundant birdlife was delightful and I breathed in the sweet air that comes with being so high above sea level, away from smoggy cities.

Soon enough, the group of about thirty participants gathered in the large meeting room at *Quest* and we met Petrea King, founder and director of *Quest for Life*. Now Petrea knows what it is like to be faced with a crisis, having recovered from life-threatening cancer herself, and from her teens has worked in counselling, nursing and natural therapies.

Petrea has more than twenty years experience providing services for people living with the challenges of serious, chronic and life-threatening illness, grief, loss, anxiety, depression and trauma. She knows that happiness comes from within and that personal peace is a conscious choice to live in the present moment. Of course it is easy to hear such realisations, but the point of Healing your Life is to master the skills necessary to realise these truths for ourselves.

We also met Petrea's partner, Wendie Batho, a former high school principal and a person who knows the trials of feeling stuck or just being unable to continue living due to a personal crisis or illness. Wendie is serious, yet always ready with a deadpan one-liner and you can see how the differences between the two women serve to complement them. I came to know Wendie as a pillar of strength, wisdom and compassion (and too much laughter at times).

The program started after the introductions and, as the sole transsexual of the group, I felt intimidated by the other people and my hackles immediately went up. I was guarded about being stared at and judged. I was actually quite angry at the 'straights' around me and I was ready to rip someone's head off, should they ask a stupid question about being a TS or gaze too long.

My fears were dispelled with the serious work beginning early the next morning with some yoga and stretching, which I love. We broke off into a meditation and assembled for the Stories from Participants workshop. Wow - what an eye-opener it was to learn of the others' pain and suffering! I was among people who faced an early death or were recovering from a serious illness; others had lost loved ones in tragic circumstances and some were trapped in depression and years of isolation and sadness in their lives. I shed my armour and shared my story and I can say a lot of tears flowed in that room that session. It was a redeeming experience and a healing catharsis for all of us.

I got to know and befriend many people in that group and as the days passed we all became closer. Mornings started with meditation and sessions involving group exercises, lectures and my favourite, a singing workshop.

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Mealtimes were a great chance to share our stories and, although hesitant at the start, I came out of my shell and enjoyed the candour of our dinner-table confessionals. The food was delicious with lots of fresh juices, salads, some protein and a monster selection of herbals teas and coffee. I made it my mission to taste each and every tea over the five days, but still failed to try them all.

Accommodation was motel-style units and it was great to go to sleep without traffic noise and feeling exhausted from a full day of activities and eating! Oddly enough, the clickety-clack of the overnight goods trains travelling nearby was comforting and I enjoyed feeling a million miles away from the city as I lay in bed.

I walked to the nearby Moreton national Park on one of the lunch-breaks and saw pristine forests, teeming with birdlife and local native vegetation I had not encountered before. I must make the trip back to Bundanoon to see the nearby escarpment and further explore this unspoiled wonderland.

Leaving *Quest* was hard for all of us. I cried as I hugged Wendie and I could feel the sobs welling up inside her as well. In the five days we had experienced some challenges and a lot of laughter and release. The stress melted away and we had renewed energy to move on. I recommend *Quest for Life* to anybody experiencing significant hurdles in their lives or for those hankering for tranquility and the chance to learn more about themselves. Sometimes we can get too consumed with life and we need to step off and review our situation and realise why we are here and just who we are.

Visit *Quest for Life* at: www.questforlife.com.au
or telephone: (02) 4883 6599

Note: Mardi wrote this account of her experience at our request, but this should not be construed as an endorsement of Quest for Life by the NSW Gender Centre.

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

Training courses will be given throughout 2008 including Workplace Hygiene Certificate and Senior First Aid Certificate.

If you are interested, please contact Liz on 9569 2366 or email

casemanagement@gendercentre.org.au

Agender Conference (NZ) *30 May-1 June 2008*



Conference Fee NZ\$180.00 (does not include accommodation or breakfasts).

For further details contact:

Agender Christchurch,
PO Box 33236, Barrington,
Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND

or email:

AgenderChCh@xtra.co.nz

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AUBURN SEX WORKER PROJECT

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

This service provides free condoms, lube, dental dams, needle exchange, information and referrals.

Please call (02) 9646 2233 or 0408 445 753

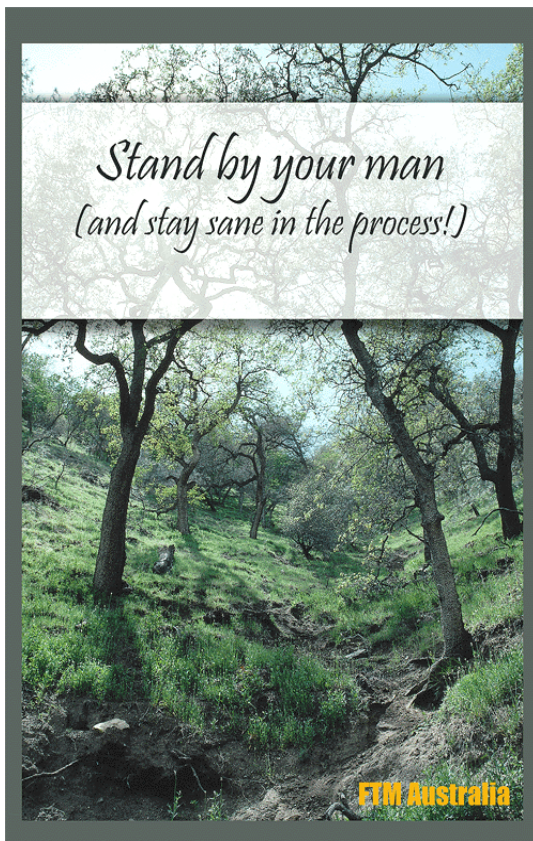
for a confidential and anonymous chat or drop in at the Community Health Centre
at

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.

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

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



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

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

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

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

SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE

Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria is hosting a free half-day workshop run by the Jesuit Social Services program to support workers and others in support roles to learn more about:

- ◆ How can we best support GLBT people following a suicide in their peer group?
- ◆ What are the most urgent things to be done?
- ◆ What are the longer term needs of those bereaved by suicide and how and where can they get support?
- ◆ How might we recognise warning signs of others at risk of suicide?
- ◆ How can we manage stigmatisation and guilt that follow a suicide?
- ◆ What resources does the GLHV clearinghouse need to collect to support workers on this issue?

When? **9.30am-12.30pm 8 May, 2008**

Where? **Ground Floor, 215 Franklin St, Melbourne.**

Registration is essential as numbers will be limited.

Phone Melanie Hales on (03) 9285 5382 or email M.Hales@latrobe.edu.au

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

2007 was a good year for FTM Australia. Forty-two new members joined the network, with an increase of thirty-three new subscribers to the *Network News*. Our income for 2007 from members and supporters was \$522.00. Thank you to all the donors.

Special thanks are due to Dale (VIC), Kael (NSW), Robbie (NSW), Liam (SA) and Nick (NSW). I am especially grateful for your kind support of the network and use of the resources.

During the year, three *Torque* newsletters were published – March, June and September. In April, the survey report ‘*How much do you pay for your testosterone*’ was published by FTM Australia. In June, one of our members re-edited the ‘*Guidelines for Journalists*’, improving this resource. In June, FTM Australia also made submission to the South Australian Government regarding the *EO Amendment Bill*.

In July, *Stand by your man (and stay sane in the process!)* was republished as a third edition with new items added. In August, the *Little Boy Book* was unexpectedly returned to publication. I cannot thank the family behind this publication enough for this decision. It will be of enormous help to other young families throughout the coming years.

FTM Brisbane started offering support and contact to lads in the Brisbane area. New Life Clothing by Jake (NSW) starting providing pre-loved items of clothing to members of the community (supported by FTM Australia) [<http://nlc.ftmaustralia.org>]. SteelWorks Gym in Victoria started advertising a consultation through FTM Australia and online in the *Network News*.

Our Queensland members, Dion and Ben, did an interview with the Triple J “Hack” program about being transgender youth. Katrin Hoedemacker from Germany found interviewees through FTM Australia for her research thesis on the transitioned/transitioning voice.

In July, FTM Australia began offering a means to link men seriously planning or researching genital reconstructive surgery. This proved to be a valuable resource for this section of the community, with fourteen men signing on as members. One of these men has since had successful metoidioplasty surgery in Belgrade, Serbia.

We were fortunate enough to hear from John Thorpe, a real old-timer in New Zealand, who transitioned in the days when the process wasn’t as well understood as it is now by the medical profession. This valued member of

FTM Australia is proud to have published his life story in *A Change for Good*.

The OzGuys email group continued to grow. Thirty-four new members signed on in 2007, with the list being used consistently throughout the year. The numbers of messages per month is listed below:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
118	69	101	68	141	214	86	116	76	86	112	67

Members used the list to share information about doctors, surgeries, strategies to manage their transition process and ask questions of each other about transition and learn about each other’s experiences. At the end of 2007, a total of 126 current active members were on the OzGuys email list.

Not every venture was entirely successful. The new Borders Forum - ‘it’s all about identity’ unexpectedly received very little interest. At the time of writing, Dion from Queensland is keen to develop this project over 2008. [<http://www.ftmaustralia.org/borders>] It would be great if FTMAustralia could provide a space in support of those struggling with identity and needing a place to engage with others on this important topic.

By the close of 2007, the handbook *Transitioning female-to-male in Australia* was finished. At the time of writing, the text is at the printers’ and we await the proof copy before making a bulk order of this valuable resource. With many first-person contributions as well as items from Dr Linda Mann (on our medical advisory panel), Tudy Kennedy from the Monash Clinic, Dr Sukit Worathamrong from Thailand, Vikki Sinnott (also on our medical advisory panel) from Melbourne, this 600 page handbook will provide a valuable resource for the community of FTM Australia. If you would like to put your name down for an advance copy, visit our website for an order form.

Divisions and dramas have been significantly down in the past year and the value of the network is apparent both to the lads who use it to find out about their options and to the service providers who care for them. There is so much more that goes on ‘behind the scenes’ by individual members in the network. My dream is that this network continues to see ordinary men living ordinary lives in Australian society. My thanks to all of you who have contributed over the past year, particularly Matt, Dale, Alex B. Liz, Henry, Sandy, Stewart, Cameron, Karen Gurney, Gina D, Vikki Sinnott and Dr Mann.

Craig Andrews, Co-ordinator, FTM Australia

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

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

	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 bodypiercing 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.	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). Young children usually have no symptoms.	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.	Often no symptoms but if they do present, are like having a mild flu. A small number of people may have hep B-like symptoms (see left).
Symptoms in long term infection.	No long term infection.	Fatigue, nausea, muscle aches and pains, abdominal discomfort or jaundice.	Fatigue, nausea, muscle aches and pains or, abdominal discomfort.
Treatment	Not usually required.	Adefovir, Entecavir, Interferon and Lamivudine. Some people use complementary therapies (e.g. herbalism) to manage their symptoms.	Combination therapy with pegylated Interferon and Ribavarin. Some people use complementary therapies (e.g. herbalism) to manage their symptoms.
Vaccine	Yes. It is safe and effective.	Yes, it is safe and effective. Part of universal childhood vaccination.	None available.
Prevention	Get vaccinated. 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). Wash hands after going to the toilet and before eating. Practise safe sex.	Get vaccinated. Do not share equipment when injecting. Avoid other blood-to-blood contact. Practise safe sex. Newborn babies should be given an injection of <i>immunoglobulin</i> (see left) within twelve hours of birth.	Do not share equipment when injecting drugs. Avoid other blood-to-blood contact

Note: This table of Hepatitis information has been repeated from *Polare 74* because some of the Hep C paragraphs in the final column were inadvertently omitted.

A SUBMISSION TO HREOC

by Kathy Noble

Issue Seventy-five

A SUBMISSION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION SEEKING A NATIONAL ENQUIRY INTO DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCED BY TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA

Having been involved with the New Zealand HRC report via a submission and meeting with Joy Liddicoat in Wellington, I am firmly convinced that we need to have a similar enquiry in Australia. This should be determined along the lines of the NZ enquiry, i.e. be nation wide and should arrange meetings and take submissions from the trans- community in order to understand the situation. The enquiry should deal with all levels of Government in Australia, which currently make laws which are inconsistent between State, Territory and Federal Governments.

Too many laws lead to confusion and make it extremely difficult to understand who is responsible for what. We need easily understood legislation which is user-friendly, and does not vary from each level of government, but is based on directions from the Federal Government that can be implemented by State and Territory Governments. At present if people move interstate they are faced with different and confusing laws that often mean they have to learn how the new State's laws affect them.

Some States offer a Recognition Certificate, but there is no consistency in this, as the usage of Recognition Certificates differs from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria offer Recognition Certificates but may or may not recognise the certificates issued by other States. In addition, their certificates may not be recognised by the other States and Territories. They can be used abroad as recognition of a person's transition in order to have documentation amended in country of birth yet no government in Australia recognises any Recognition Certificate issued outside Australia, and this creates problems for those who have immigrated here and become citizens.

The amount of documentation that is required to be altered is appalling, and can be very off-putting to those who face this both before and after surgery. In addition there is the fact that you have to apply to each government department separately, as they do not exchange details interdepartmentally. This means that you have to tell the Passport Office, Citizenship, Immigration and Multicultural Affairs separately. States and Territories are responsible for Birth Certificate, Change of Name, Drivers Licence and other matters such as land registry.

The Federal Government is responsible for Passport, Citizenship Certificate, Marriage, Health Insurance Commission and Permanent Residency. Therefore, it is of little value to blame the wrong government for causing problems. As each of these Governments makes its own

laws inconsistency is inevitable, and will remain so until a structure is established at Federal level to be the basis for consistency at all levels of government. This should include an assurance that data will be passed between Departments, as is the case in Britain. The format used in the UK would be an ideal starting place. The Gender Recognition Act 2004 dictates that one department notifies all others after acceptance and issue of the Gender Recognition Certificate.

We have tried to underline these problems in the following pages with letters from affected transgenders. We would like you to consider very carefully what we have put together, in the hope that we can at last achieve congruence of government policy and law. We have been continually told about this by the Federal Government of both the former Coalition and the current Labor government.

Transgenders are a minority group seeking equality at law with the rest of society, which we currently do not have. We wish to be recognised in the same way that we have recognised ourselves since birth. Through a quirk of nature we were born into the wrong body and we ask that this be corrected through appropriate documentation. By doing this many will be saved a lifetime of torment and the strong possibility of suicide.

Official submission concerning discrimination against Trans people and their Spouses.

This submission comes under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Immigrant Status and Social and Cultural Rights. It also relates to the Australian Constitution (Chapter I part V (xxi.) marriage and (xxii.) divorce and chapter V. The States. 109 and 117

109 states 'When a law of a State is inconsistent with a law of the Commonwealth, the latter shall prevail, and the former shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be invalid' So, is an inconsistency at State level overruled by a consistency, or a bigger inconsistency at Federal level?

At present there are huge inconsistencies at all levels where transgendered are concerned. Correspondence from the Coalition and the policies of the Labor Government's talk about consistency, but deliver inconsistency. In addition they both abdicate their Federal obligations, and attempt to pass to the States and Territories what is not their legal area of concern!

I am continually told by various Government and Health Departments that we are 'too complex'. I would counter this, by saying that the current legal framework is too complex and confusing for trans people.

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission (HRC) in their Transgender report 2007 state in Conclusions at 8.43 'The current legal framework is complex and confusing for trans people. Trans people are very diverse and should

not have barriers placed in the way of their human rights simply because that diversity presents legal complexity. All persons, everywhere are entitled to respect for their dignity by virtue of their humanity. An inclusive approach should be taken to protecting trans people from discrimination'

New Zealand HRC Findings and Recommendations 9.2 'Frequently, the wider community has little or no understanding about these issues affecting trans people's lives. The evidence presented in this report demonstrates there are crucial policy areas where no consultation has taken place with trans people and decisions have been made based on limited knowledge about their impact on trans people'

This is certainly true in Australia where the full problem has not been researched and thought through in a unified and consistent way.

9.50 The enquiry recommends that the Government should:

Enable effective participation by trans people in decisions that affect them by

*** Recognising and supporting the leadership and advocacy of trans people and**

*** Increasing government agencies' consultation and collaboration with trans people, starting with the priority areas outlined in this report.**

We in Australia would very much like to see this implemented!

It appears all too easy to hide behind the oft quoted word 'complex' which seems to be an excuse for those Departments that really are saying 'Go away, we have no time to spend on your problems'.

The following lists show the difference in the number of documents which need to be amended for those born in Australia and those born offshore.

Born in Australia	Born off shore
Change of name	Change of name
SRS	SRS
Divorce if married	Residency status
Amend BC	Recognition Certificate
Amend Passport	Divorce if married
	Amend BC from Country of Birth
	Amend Citizenship Certificate
	Amend Passport

QUEENSLAND

*** PROBLEM** Lack of full recognition for those born off shore due to there being no Recognised Details Certificate (RDC) in place. *** SOLUTION** Issue an RDC in Queensland.

*** PROBLEM** Gender Recognition Certificate issued by Country of birth not recognised

*** SOLUTION** Recognise off shore recognition certificates.

* Proof of residency in Australia is required if we are to implement an RDC in Queensland. This is a Federal problem.

* BDM will allow change of name for those born off shore and resident in Queensland.

* Allow driver's licence to be amended before surgery and after change of name accompanied by a letter from your Psychiatrist.

* Those born in Queensland do not need proof of residency, or an RDC to be fully recognised in their new sex/gender in order to change their BC.

*** PROBLEM** Those from off shore are now made to feel like second class citizens, even when they have been granted permanent residency and are citizens of Australia.

*** SOLUTION.** Afford us the same status at law as those born in Australia.

* *Australian Constitution* Chapter 5 117. A subject of the Queen, resident in any State, shall not be subject in any other State to disability or discrimination which would not be equally applicable to him if he were a subject of the Queen resident in such other State.

FEDERAL

*** PROBLEM** Does not recognise any recognition certificate issued off shore.

*** SOLUTION** Recognise off shore recognition certificates.

* For those born in Australia they need only to be divorced, over eighteen and single to be able to change their BC and Passport after SRS

*** PROBLEM** Requirements for those born offshore. include an amended BC from country of birth, and an amended Citizenship Certificate in order to amend their Australian Passport *** SOLUTION** Allow amended Citizenship and passport after SRS.

*** PROBLEM** Proof of Residency has to be amended if you entered the country as male and are now female. Could it be construed that until that amendment is made, you do not exist, or are an illegal immigrant? No sex is mentioned on form 283, Certificate of evidence of resident status.

*** SOLUTION** To be automatically amended after Citizenship Certificate has been amended. There is no link up between departments.

* Citizenship certificate must be amended in order to amend your passport (Since May 2007) No sex is mentioned.

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* **PROBLEM Marriage.** If married there has to be a divorce in order to amend your BC. This discriminates against those who wish to stay married.

* **SOLUTION** needs to be approached in an entirely different way to same-sex, as still legally married

* **PROBLEM** The trans-person's spouse suffers loss of rights to inheritance and superannuation. They are placed into a same-sex relationship category by Government departments, although still legally married. The spouse cannot regain full rights in marriage. Divorce is required in order to have those rights re-instated. Why should this be, as they took solemn vows and have done no wrong, other than stay married to their partner?

* **SOLUTION** As the above solution

* **PROBLEM** If denied an amended BC because they are still married, then the passport cannot be amended due to being still married. [But note recent Anrams case and Supreme Court ruling] This places those who have to travel off shore in a very invidious position

* **SOLUTION** In the past passports have been amended on production of evidence of surgery, why not now? We have proof

* **PROBLEM** Those born in UK have to divorce to be able to amend their BC, so this stops them from amending their Citizenship Certificate and passport.

* **SOLUTION** Also in the past the Citizenship Certificate was amended without an amended BC. Again we have proof

* **PROBLEM** Does this apply to residency too?

* **QUESTION** Does this also apply to proof of permanent residency, that BC and Citizenship Certificate have been amended?

* **PROBLEM AATA.** The decision handed down in the case of Abrams, now presents us with a farce, as she can amend her passport, but not her BC.

* **QUERY** Will this mean that many more will use this precedent in order to change their passport via this route?

Why has Government made it so hard to change our passports, when it is a seemingly easy exercise when a newly married woman changes hers, due to her change of name?

Is it possible to lower the threshold for enabling trans woman to obtain an 'F' passport and a trans man to obtain an 'M' passport, reflecting the UK approach? This could take the form that allows the gender marker to be changed as long as the person has permanently changed gender role and does not intend to reverse it. A simple letter from a medical professional, general practitioner, psychologist or psychotherapist is sufficient to endorse this. This is unrelated to the Gender Recognition Certificate issued

by the UK Gender Recognition Panel

LEGAL STANCE

What is the difference for those born an Australian Citizen, as against those who are granted it via Australian Citizenship? Are those born here considered to be more elite, than those granted both permanent residency and citizenship. It gives those who are granted citizenship the feeling of being second class citizens.

Is the Federal Government aware that a couple who remain married after one has undergone SRS, are forced to divorce in order for the trans person to amend documentation, and they would have to commit perjury, as the law expects them to quote 'irreconcilable breakdown', when this is patently not the case, as this is the only grounds allowed for divorce.

What would be the outcome if the couple stated in Court that they were being forced into a divorce in order to be allowed to change their Birth Certificate and other documentation, because of current Federal government legislation with regard to Trans people who are married and wish to stay married? If this were found to be a lie, would they have committed the crime of perjury?

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission in their Transgender Report 2007 on page 98 at 9.40 states 'Similarly, the inquiry considers that while amending a birth certificate should be sufficient to amend sex details on other records, it is not a necessary prerequisite. If someone meets the proposed criteria for changing the sex details on their birth certificate, they should nonetheless have the right to amend a passport, citizenship certificate or other documents. This provision is particularly important for trans people who cannot amend their birth certificate (for example: because they were born in a country that does not allow trans people to amend birth certificates, if they are currently married, or for cultural reasons)

What is the legal situation concerning young people who may require puberty blockers, [Re Alex], whilst they decide if they are transsexual and intend to fully transition?

RECOMMENDATIONS

If a person meets the criteria to amend his/her Birth Certificate in any State or Territory or Country that affords this to those born in those States, Territories or Countries, why cannot those born off shore, but residing in said State Territory or Country also be allowed to amend their documentation as is mentioned above in the NZ HRC at 9.40. e.g. Citizenship Certificate, Passport, Permanent Residency, Health Insurance Commission. Why can't these be amended if one is still married or unable to undergo SRS because of finance, cultural or health reasons if residing in the said State, Territory or Country, either by birth or being born off shore?

As the Federal Government is responsible at law for five areas (Passports, Citizenship Certificates, Proof of Permanent Residency, Marriage and Health Insurance Commission) that cover trans people, they should implement consistency of law and word with regard to trans people. This could then be used as a guide for all States and Territories in Australia, creating consistency within the Commonwealth in accordance with Chapter V - 109 of the *Australian Constitution*. The new guide should include the principle that amended facts are to be passed between Federal Government Departments, so that trans people do not have to apply to each department in turn for full recognition. Which would be the Alpha department that would collate these details and pass them on? This is done in the UK, under the *Gender Recognition Act 2004* by the Gender Recognition Council. Once the Gender Recognition Certificate is granted, then that authority notifies all relevant departments, such as Birth Registry, Tax Office and Pension Office, whose records are amended to show the person's new gender.

Our Federal Government should recognise all Gender Recognition Certificates issued in Australia and those issued outside Australia by other sovereign governments and this recognition should then flow to all levels of Government within Australia.

SUMMATION

We would like to see an approach in Australia similar to that of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission. Trans people should be interviewed across Australia, or asked to send in submissions. This would lead to a much better understanding of the problems that we face at all levels of government and medical areas. It can also afford anonymity for those who require it

Chapter 5 of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission Report records what professional clinicians have to say. This is what is sadly lacking in Australia.

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission Report outlines the extreme problems that we face in Australia. Something must be done to counter the immense damage that our current laws cause and how trans people's problems are viewed, before too many more are lost to depression, despair and suicide.

Young trans people, sometimes as young as four, who come into the system, deserve better treatment than we older activists and advocates have received, and are receiving.

We suffer from outdated laws that are not being amended in order to keep pace with changes and research within the trans area of concern. The laws pertaining to trans people are far out of date in most cases, and out of touch with reality. We would ask that you give open and honest consideration to what we have outlined, in order to bring

us up to date and into the 21st Century, with regard to legal, social and health concerns in Australia

LETTERS TO ACCOMPANY THE SUBMISSION HREOC COMPLAINTS

I am fortunate that I have been able to acquire a Gender Recognition Certificate from the UK, and have therefore had my Birth Certificate amended. This has allowed me to amend my Citizenship Certificate, both my Australian and UK passports, as well as now receiving my form 283, Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status. Clearly this should mean that I am fully recognised in Australia and Queensland. However, I feel that the situation in Queensland is questionable, as Queensland does not recognise any form of Recognition Certificate issued off shore, plus the fact that I have not been offered a Recognised Details Certificate by Queensland, as they do not offer this!

My question is, am I recognised in Australia, but not in the State where I am domiciled (Queensland)?

Kathy Anne Noble
President, Changeling Aspects

Hi Kathy,

Please find below an account of my dealing with the Passport Office.

I rang up the Passport Information Service on the 18th of December 2007 and asked what the procedure was to change gender in my passport. After a discussion they said it would be best if my application was processed at the Passport Office and not a Post Office. An appointment was made for the 27th of December 2007

On the 27th I fronted the Passport Office. They initially said that I would need an updated birth certificate and I explained that I did not fit the criteria for a revised birth certificate (due to being married and not divorced). I brought a certified copy of my birth certificate but for some reason they needed the original even though I had my current and previous passports with me.

Finally they accepted my application. They did state it wouldn't be processed in their normal ten day period. They didn't know how long it was going to take and that it would need to go to Canberra for approval. The reference number for my application is 03452512W.

The following day (28th), I went down to the local Australia Post business centre and asked them to send a copy of my birth certificate through.

On the following Thursday (4th January 2008), I received a phone call from the Passport Office with an additional requirement, they wanted a letter from a second doctor confirming that I had had reassignment surgery. About

half an hour later they phoned again requesting a letter stating that I was married and not going to get a divorce and also a letter from the NSW Department of Births Deaths and Marriages stating the requirements for gender change on NSW birth certificates, even though these are publicly available. They said they would forward my application to their Policies Department.

I spoke to the call centre at Births Deaths and Marriages (also on the 4th) and asked if they could produce such a letter. They said they'd get back to me within twenty-four hours with a decision. I queried what decision, their response was the decision would be on whether they'd give me such a letter.

I didn't hear back from them until the morning of the 7th when I had to re-explain what I needed and why. The gentleman I spoke to said this wouldn't be an issue and he'd get it out that afternoon.

In my letter to the Passport Office regarding my marital status, I also explained that I work for a company that is in the oil industry, I pointed out that we deal with oil companies in countries that are not accepting of transsexuals and that the longer it takes to process my application, the higher the chance that it will interfere with my ability to perform my duties.

I received the letter on the 10th of January, 2008 and faxed the documents to the Passport office. I will take the originals to my local Australia Post business centre today, so they can forward the hard copies to the passport office.

B***** 11/01/2008

Hi Kathy,

I've been hassling the Passport Office and I just got a phone call from them today (I rang them yesterday and last week but they didn't get back to me). They said it still hasn't been approved but it should be in the next couple of days. So I explicitly asked so it'll be issued next week and she said yes.

So the squeaky wheel gets the oil...But it still remains to be seen whether they'll do it or not.

Has the other girl got hers issued yet?

B*****

Some typical questions and answers:

Hi P*****,

Q. Sorry to trouble you, but is your passport with M in the box a ten year one, or longer?

A. My Passport is a ten year one, it was one I took out before flying to Thailand for SRS. I was told I could have it changed upon providing evidence of surgery to the department.

Q. Several others have been given this type of passport and when they have queried it, they are told "It is to save embarrassment when travelling" How can that be? When there is a clear mix of male and female displayed.

A. Damned good question - I think it's a disgrace. I travel quite a lot with work and it's a source of constant fear for me (particularly in South East Asia). I have actually held off on trips to the US because of their level of scrutiny and potential for intense humiliation at a US airport with a prominent "M" on my passport. Recently I had to apply for some complex business finance and had to provide a copy of my passport with the documentation. I was terrified someone would pick up on the M then too.

Q. Have you changed your UK passport, or don't you have one?

A. I have a UK passport, but it has expired many years ago. I haven't been to the UK since I left in 1987.

Q. Have you amended your Citizenship Certificate (CC), and if so, was it back dated in your female status to the date that you originally took it out?

A. Yes - my citizenship certificate has been amended. I have no idea if it was backdated at all - wasn't something I checked to be honest.

Q. There is now no mention of sex on the CC.

A. There was no mention of sex on my original certificate (Issued in 1990), but the name was obviously male.

Q. Hope you don't mind answering these questions, as it is all useful in building a case for change.

A. No problems at all - happy to help if I can.

Dear Kathy

Sorry this has taken so long. I just haven't had a chance to do it before this. The passport is attached.

This is my experience as you requested.

I rang the Passport Section of Immigration in around August/September 2004 to tell them that I was travelling to Thailand later in the year to consult three surgeons who specialise in male-to-female sex reassignment surgery.

I am a professional and I told them that on the way to Thailand I had to visit a colleague in Surabaya, Indonesia on business. I had been advised by my Indonesian colleague to be sure that I had a passport that declared

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me as female or I might experience difficulty, or even be forced to repatriate on the next available flight to Sydney when passing through Indonesian Immigration. In my phone conversation with the Passport Section of Immigration in Canberra I mentioned that I wanted a twelve months passport which declared me as female (i.e. an F in the passport number and box rather than an M) which I understood was available for mtf transsexual people visiting Thailand to either seek or to actually have surgery performed and explained my reason for needing this. I was advised that this type of passport had been available for a number of years to assist transsexual people in choosing and consulting a surgeon, but that it had recently been removed from the type of passports available. I was advised that the only way to have the passport declaring me as female was to obtain a birth certificate issued declaring me as female. This can only be issued by BDM in NSW if Sex Reassignment Surgery has been undergone by the applicant. Thus I was unable to get the birth certificate I required. The only other way was to travel as a male with my male passport. Under the standard conditions of transitioning from male to female, the psychiatrist will not allow any reversion to the former gender of the person seeking SRA for ANY reason whatsoever, and if that does occur the patient must start therapy again and repeat the standard two year period with a full psychiatric report before any surgeon will carry out the procedure. I was already twelve months through the period.

The only way that I could solve my problem was to request the printer to assist me in gaining entrance to Thailand. Fortunately the company was influential in Surabaya and because of the then outdated entrance arrangements, representatives were able to meet me before Immigration, whisk me away to a lounge while the company director took care of the Customs and Immigration formalities on my behalf.

I was fortunate. Many other transsexual people would not be as fortunate. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for a pre-operative transsexual's sense of self and dignity that he or she be treated as the gender dictated by this condition which has been present since birth. The current situation is devastating for transsexuals needing surgery.

Surgery is more cost effective overseas and is certainly up to Australian standards and in some cases exceeds them, but the normal procedure of finding, consulting and becoming comfortable with a surgeon is denied Australian transsexuals travelling overseas. Under the current regulations they travel under embarrassing circumstances with inappropriate documentation.

Love, M*****

I arrived in Australia on a temporary passport in 1964! Issued by Australia under 'The Migration Act' supporting white immigrants, usually called "10 pound Pommie"

Many years later I applied for Australian citizenship in my 'then Male name, address etc' and it was issued as such.

Applied to British High Commission in Canberra for passport so I could return to England for a three month holiday (male mode)

Some twelve years later I transitioned from male to female. I was issued with a deed poll for name change. Medicare, Driving Licence etc changed with deed poll and medical certificate from psychologist issued by sexual health. All documents were changed.

In 2006 I applied to Canberra British passport office for new passport in new name (deed poll supplied) plus old male passport with all information asked for as per application. New passport was issued in female name with an F in the box and on the bottom amongst the numbers was an F as well. My old passport was returned with the corner cut off.

I now applied for an Australian passport via the post office with documents asked for. The new passport was returned with an F in place, and no questions asked! As per the law in Australia, I answered all questions truthfully. There was no question that had to be ticked or answered that had anything to do with being transsexual!

Hypothetical question! If I was a mass killer would I say that I was, if not asked?

E*****

I cannot accept that an error has been made as stated in the above. If what follows is correct!

Clearly you have gathered from the general basic information which T***** supplied initially that there is a fairly specific and detailed process to go through but there is no mention of how to do this contained within the IPS application pack due to the sensitivity of the information.

If there is nothing contained in the information pack, where do we get the information from? Therefore, I think that what my friend has done, was correct, as she complied with what was asked for. I would suggest that the error is in the way the law/package has been put together!

Kathy. The above was sent to Newcastle-Upon-Tyne to try to get answers as to how this happened

Tuesday, 7 August 2007

Issue Seventy-five

PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL

Director, Passport Renewal Section, Passport Office

I need to bring to your attention an issue around the renewal of my current Australian Passport. In its current state, is both incorrect and misleading, not to mention creating unnecessary personal stress.

Making the passport renewal online I was distressed to discover that the renewal form, that I was to take to the local post office, contained incorrect and misleading name and gender details.

I find this incredible this has occurred, given I made and was granted a decision through the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs [Melbourne section] (Ref: FOI Number:FM*****, the right to change my personal records pertaining to all government records, including Passport and Australian Citizenship Certificate, after I had provided evidence to the effect I had undergone gender reassignment and was regarded as being female in the community, with the name ***** The evidence provided included records stating that I legally be known as ***** and my gender regarded as Female, including the following:

1. Victorian Recognised Details Certificate 2. United Kingdom Birth Certificate 3. United Kingdom Gender Recognition Certificate.

The Officer from the Parliamentary and Public Access Unit, stated the personal evidence provided, leads her to the concluding decision that personal information held and available for use by Australian Government Departments' was incorrect and misleading.

This authorised the changing of all Australian Government Departments' records to the name ***** and gender as Female, and includes changing all historical personal records, of which clearly a renewal of the passport is one. This decision allowed a successful application and issue of the Australian Citizenship Certificate, in the name ***** to be received.

I also make reference to information received from a friend, where I draw the conclusion made by an officer from the Watch Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (dated 17 April 2007), under section 8 of the Australian Passport Act 2005, and that from an Assistant Secretary, Passport Client Services Branch (dated 22 May 2007), that I have provided absolute evidence to ensure all future renewal applications of my Australian passport should correspond to that of my correct female name and female gender.

I trust this provides sufficient evidence for you to make a decision and direction, to ensure the renewal of my Australian Passport and to direct that it no longer has reference to incorrect and misleading information.

Sincerely yours,

RE: Chronological sequence of my passport story.....

PASSPORTS AND OTHER PROBLEMS.doc 31-08-2007

Hi Kathy,

I attach the FOI decisions (not sure if I previously sent them?). But it is worth referring to the section where the FOI agent says that if there is any passport enquiries contact the Passport Office!

You can imagine the mockery of this statement from the result I received when I initially queried with the Passport Office about the fact that old improper details appeared on the Passport Renewal online and was told offhandedly ...”we need this for security reasons...”.....so that in effect they were not interested in assisting me at all.

So in ascending date order of events leading up to today's (Fri 31st August 2007) “experience” at the Australia Post (Airport West - Vic) Office:

1. Received authority from the FOI for Departmental records to be changed which in effect would allow for me to pursue an application for a new Citizenship Certificate
2. Received Citizenship Certificate with new “proper” details with the date it was first issued (in 1977)
3. Noted Passport was up for renewal mid-September 2007
4. Around mid-August initiated renewal through the Passport Renewal online access.
5. Discovery after completing family name, first names, gender, and date of birth etc the PDF file revealed my old gender name and details
6. Tried to seek assistance thru the Passport ‘phone contact number 131 232
7. Received response from the “CSR” I mentioned in the first part of this email
8. I contacted Kathy who suggested I contacted the Passport Policy section - this I duly did referring to two instances of replies Kathy had received from earlier passport queries
9. I phoned to seek progress and was informed that the response would be in the post that in effect would outline that I need to submit the new Citizenship Certificate with a normal Passport application - this letter I duly received around a week later

10. I then made progress to complete the Passport application, including having the photo sighted and signed, then wanting to make an appointment with the Passport Office

11. Informed this is not possible despite explaining the circumstances surrounding the sensitivities of this application that could be revealed - being informed all Aust Post personnel are trained and would need to go to Aust Post.

12. Made appointment with the first available Australia Post for the passport application - making copies of documents that may be required in what I thought was going to be a private meeting in a closed-off office!

13. Imagine my surprise - to the point I was going to walk out - where I have had the so called interview as if I was buying a book of stamps - disgusting

14. The clerk said it would not make any difference if I were to walk out as "...all Aust Post do it is this way..."

15. So I stood there handing over the copy of the Citizenship Certificate imagining that any personal question that may have come up - would have been the point I would have walked out - can imagine the stress for someone who had to do an initial passport with all the questions/answers back ' forth - very unacceptable

16. To cap off this "wonderful experience" she cut my still valid passport front cover!

So Kathy you can see this is just the "tip of the iceberg" of what we have to put up with - what should have been a relatively standard process.

Hi Kathy,

Thank you for your thoughts on problems transsexuals and GID Australians face! My wife and I approached my name change and all it's implications honestly but in trepidation as we notified the various Government and State Authorities .

CENTRELINK:-

We had no difficulty with Centrelink Lismore as we apprised their financial advisor of our plight and my name change. This particular Officer changed my name on their files and this to date has made no difference to us receiving Married Centrelink Part Pension Payments.

My wife and I confirmed that we will remain married and stay together for life as we both took sacred marriage vows and had no intention of breaking them by divorce.

NSW RTA DRIVERS LICENSE:-

I provided the Lismore Office of NSW RTA with a certified copy of my amended Birth Certificate in my new

name and was issued with a new license in the name of *****. As there is no gender noted on the licence all is ok.

NSW BIRTH CERTIFICATE:-

I amended my N S W Birth Certificate by Deed Poll without any trouble as long as I retained male gender indicated on the amended certificate.

To change the gender on this certificate I must;

(a) Divorce my wife.

(b) Furnish the Births Deaths and Marriages with a certified statement by the Surgeon that I have had GRS and am now a female.

(c) I must lodge a fresh application as a Transsexual before I can have my gender changed on my birth certificate.

This is totally impossible and draconian, not to mention discriminatory as my wife and I (like many other couples in our situation) wish to remain married to honour our commitment and marriage vows to one another.

AUSTRALIAN PASSPORT:-

As an Australian Citizen I hold a passport in my former male name with the gender as male.

If I wish to apply for a new Passport in the name of [female name] Gender Female then the NSW Birth Certificate must show I am transgender female!

A Catch 22 situation, in anyone's language. Such a situation over gender would cause major problems in many countries if my passport showed me as [female name] MALE thus I might be unable to travel overseas as a result of this Federal Government's discriminatory legislative folly.

COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVANTS SUPERANNUATION :-

This august body is bound by Federal Government Legislation which discriminates against ALL SAME SEX COUPLES (married or not) by denying their surviving partner /husband /wife the 65% of the deceased Public Servants Superannuation Pension which is applied only to married male and female couples!

In our case we are both retired, superannuated Commonwealth Public Servants (still married after thirty-nine years)and we both contributed to the CSS from our salaries while working for our joint retirement.

Because of current legislation we are not now entitled to receive 65% of the deceased person's pension if I change my gender on my BC! This is grossly unfair as we have and always will rely heavily on one another as a married couple financially, morally and in health matters not to mention the tremendous unconditional love, compassion and support we continue to share with one another through

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thick and thin. I still get CSS Mail Addressed to Mr [female name] because I dare not change my gender on my birth certificate because of the aforementioned legislation.

We and many couples like us are caught in Government Legislative Discriminatory Regulations which refuse human rights and equal opportunities to those Australian Taxpayers who through no fault of their own do not meet the Religious and Political Norm of a Male- Female Heterosexual Couple.

I don't know of other legislation which precludes us from Health Care etc.

I do know that we are in no man's land because we do not fit into the Government mould.

It is vital that our situation is resolved and we are able to receive the same entitlements as other Australian Taxpayer Citizens.

Hope this helps you a bit.

[female name] 20-09-2007

Letter to Member of Parliament

RE:- DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION OF STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS IMPACTING ON TRANSGENDER MARRIED COUPLES AND SINGLES IN AUSTRALIA.

I am writing to you to try and highlight the draconian and cruel discriminatory legislation currently applied to Australian transgender married couples which strips away the basic human rights and equal opportunities of all Australian transgender citizens. Such legislation flies in the face of the International Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Charter of which Australia is a signatory.

My wife and I are like many other Australian married couples, lumped in with the anti-gay legislation of 'Same Sex Couples' post Howard and State legislation which ignores the facts as follows;

My seventy-two year old wife and I married in good faith thirty-eight years ago as male and female and our union has lasted to this point despite surviving the stresses of Cyclone Tracy, major floods on the Queensland Sunshine Coast and even the very necessary gender reassignment surgery undertaken on 3rd August 2007. Because my Gender Identity Disorder and Transsexualism were not understood before our marriage I was forced to subjugate my condition all my life until such unbearable pressure of the condition overwhelmed me to the point of contemplating suicide four years ago.

As part of an incomplete university psychology degree which my wife undertook for her work, she attended a section on 'Gender Bending' (Transgenderism) and

therefore understood my condition and sought help to diagnose and confirm my condition. Because the area where we live is so isolated from specialist gender medical practitioners I was referred to the Brisbane Gender Centre by a local doctor.

I attended appointments with a specialist gender GP at the Centre, and with a psychiatrist at the Brisbane Women's Hospital and Queensland Mental Health Specialist, also an endocrinologist in Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, over a period of four years.

My condition was confirmed and I began female hormones after being subjected much earlier to both ECT (Electro Convulsive Therapy) and testosterone therapy in an effort to become male. Both failed.

I also had a four-hour neuropsychology test in Brisbane to ensure my brain functions were okay and passed with flying colours.

I attended appointments with doctors, two psychiatrists and the plastic surgeon at the Monash Gender Centre. These reviewed my condition and treatment by the Queensland Gender Centre before accepting me for gender reassignment on August 3rd 2007.

At no time were either my wife and I advised of the draconian discriminatory State and Federal legislation against 'same sex couples' introduced into both State and Federal Parliaments which lump transgender citizens in with lesbian and gay couples.

Neither of us is homophobic but we resent being classed and discriminated against by inclusion under the wrong label.

We are not Lesbians nor thought of as such in our local community that understands that my condition is both medical and mental and, after all other avenues have been exhausted, has resulted in me becoming a woman.

The Commonwealth and State Legislatures choose not to recognise our condition and strip us of all our human rights and equal opportunity before the law.

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission late last year identified over fifty pieces of State and Federal Legislation against 'Same Sex Couples' including transgender couples and transgender singles.

The following are just some that impact on Transgender married couples;

(1) By Medicare we are now determined to be a "Same Sex Couple" and lose our married status despite the fact we are still married!

(2) (a) I cannot change the gender on my N S W Birth Certificate without divorcing my seventy-two year old wife of thirty-eight years!

(b) I cannot have an Australian Passport with the corrected gender on my new Passport unless I change the gender on my name-amended birth certificate!

(c) If I change my gender on my birth certificate then my wife loses her pension card as she is then classed as a 'same sex' single person! As a married couple we are both entitled to a part-pension along with all the married pensioner discounts on utilities travel on public transport etc.

(d) Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme Legislation discriminates against 'same sex couples' by denying the remaining partner the same rights as heterosexual married couples (entitlement of receiving 65% of the deceased Public Servant's Superannuation Pension). In our case we were both Commonwealth Public Servants and both paid ten 10% plus of our gross salary to our Superannuation scheme but under the current legislation neither of us is entitled to 65% of our 'partner's' Pension upon either's demise!

These are a few examples which discriminate against married transgender couples which we have come across so far.

There is no assistance given to Australian GID and transgender citizens at present so married couples who do not divorce are discriminated against and put under impossible pressures.

The non-transgender wife/husband in the union is ignored and along with the transgendered person often suicides as a result of the treatment received under legislation.

Most married transgender couples have worked, paid taxes and contributed to the prosperity of Australia yet understanding and support by State and Federal Governments, the medical profession and the Community is sadly lacking.

My wife and I, along with other transgender married couples and singles petition the current Labor Federal and State Governments to rescind Coalition and State draconian and discriminatory legislation as quickly as possible. National legislation rather than the piecemeal State and Federal approach to address our plight would be needed to remove the legislative nightmare we all now face.

We are Australian taxpaying citizens who deserve the same rights as other Australians. My wife and I would appreciate a face to face meeting with you to discuss the points raised and to appraise you of our plight.

It is totally unfair that the non-transgender member of the married couple should be labelled as part of a 'same sex couple' and stripped of all rights as a married person! After all she/he and the partner are the victims of a medical/mental condition over which they have no control.

Dear Kathy,

I received your e-mail requesting approval for to use my details in your complaints submission.

My wife and I are suffering great distress to the point of depression at the inability of State and Federal Governments and their Quangos to address jointly the plight of transgender Australians, their families, wives husbands, etc in legislation. It would appear that our plight has been handballed back and forth between State and Federal Legislators with each putting the situation in the too-hard basket.

As a married couple we resent the withdrawal and denial of our human rights and equal treatment before the law and the denial in current legislation of our ongoing commitment to one another by marriage vows taken in good faith by us both as man and wife.

We raised my wife's four young children (by her previous marriage) and I sublimated my undiagnosed transgender condition to achieve a 'normal' family life and comply with all the expectations that marriage, family and society demands. Late in life when the pressures of my condition were diagnosed and confirmed after they became unbearable, by joint agreement I underwent GRS.

No-one explained the minefield of discriminatory legislation which now confronts us and there appears to be no willingness or effort to try and rectify this situation at present despite a number of e-mails to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission as the legislation begins to be applied to us!

Always the promise of another special Review of Transgender problems but nothing ever transpires. Our situation is very depressing and at times this pain resulted in us results in depression and makes us ill.

Transgenderism is not a choice but a medical/mental condition which is not understood well either by the medical fraternity or the State and Federal Governments and is therefore swept into the too-hard basket. Married transgender couples lose all their married rights and privileges because they have been lumped in with gays and lesbians under the label of 'same sex couples' by State and Federal Legislation. Although technically one of the couple may have undergone gender reassignment surgery the bond, reliance, trust and support for one another does not change and the responsibilities and commitments to one another never changes.

Some are the same as mature heterosexual couples who do not practice conjugal bed activities (asexual) but in all other ways they remain the same married couple. It is also unfair that the communities in which we live and work accept our condition once it is explained to them and yet Governments are unable to do the same in uniform National Legislation.

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It is particularly hard to comprehend the often ambiguous, discriminatory legislation against transgender citizens and their families in over fifty identified pieces of legislation by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission in late 2007.

Such action denies transgender couples the basic rights of other married couples not afflicted with the transgender condition.

It is high time the State and Federal Governments faced up to their joint obligations to treat ALL Australian citizens equally both in legislation and before the law.

I wish you well, Kathy.

To Whom it may concern,

I write this as a document that lays out perceived and real problems that have been caused by my transition from Male to Female.

BACKGROUND

I am married to a wonderful woman and have been for 27 years.

My transition took place in 2001-2002 and I had SRS in Jan 2002.

My wife stayed with me.

I have changed several but not all the documents that pertain to me including, Passport, Bank Accounts, Name (Deed Poll), Insurance, Medicare Card, Superannuation to my female name. Those not changed include Citizenship Papers, Council Rates and House Deeds, Birth Certificate. Documents yet to be considered include Immigration papers and status papers.

At this juncture I would like to add that some papers I've not changed due to cost as I was unemployed for quite a while during my transition due to difficulty with appearance discrimination etc.

For instance I informed the Council that my rates notice should be addressed to Jennifer Robinson as I had changed my name, but they told me that I had to pay to change it - I'm not sure how this works as I paid to change my name and am not allowed to use my old name even though apparently they are.

Now at this point I felt justified in thinking that I might be perceived in a real fashion as a woman by both the general population and by those who manage the duties of Government. I find this not the case. This is how I now find the system to be.

* To the tax office I am a single woman .

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* To the Government, I am a married person of indeterminate status unless dead in which case I am not married and my estate may not be claimed by my wife.

* To Medicare I am a woman

* To my wife's superannuation I apparently am not a family member (particularly as it pertains to inheritance rights.)

* I am not married to my wife as I am a female, but I am not allowed a birth certificate as a woman because I am married.

* My passport is female - though it may have male tracers on it - and I've been informed by the issuing body that the amendments are to spare me embarrassment while travelling and do not confer legal status.

* I've also been told that when it comes to be renewed, it may be renewed as a male passport as my citizenship certificate is male (though in fact it doesn't say anything except my old (male) name). I also can't change it because I don't have single status to get a details certificate or a new birth certificate.

* My wife doesn't appear to have any rights as a married woman either - though she's done nothing wrong nor has she signed anything that may abbreviate or negate any rights as a married woman - this is an important point as is apparently discriminates against an innocent bystander.

Now I have some questions.

1. How do I restore those rights of a person who has not committed any offence nor done anything wrong except treat a medical necessity?
2. How do I restore those rights of a person married to the above(1.)?
3. How do I achieve the same rights I had before in terms of marital rights of inheritance? I didn't change anything nor sign away any of my rights as a married person - though I now apparently have none.

CONCLUSION.

My wife and I have both been discriminated against by Human Rights abuses, by Governments, both State and Federal.

I have had my status removed as a person and my life disrupted by a Government that refuses to accommodate real and difficult changes that had to occur if my life was to continue.

I seek only that to which others are entitled - the right to be me, the right to pass on to my spouse of twenty-seven years my estate and to be recognised by my country as a real person with an integral identity.

I hope this is not too much to ask.

[Female Name]

Dear Ms Noble,

Thank you for your e-mail received by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Mr Chris Evans, on 9 January 2008 concerning issues faced by transsexuals resident in Australia when confirming their visa status and having a "Recognised Details Certificate" issued. The Minister has asked that I reply on his behalf.

I apologise if you have been passed between officers. Your e-mail has prompted a review of the procedures used by staff in our FOI administration area and all staff are now aware of the process that is required for clients with similar circumstances.

While I can confirm that your records have been amended to reflect your details in the name of Kathy Anne Noble, for your information I will outline the process that should happen to effect these changes. I note that you are President of Changeling Aspects so this information may also be of use to your members.

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) provides a mechanism for the amendment and annotation of personal records held by Commonwealth Government agencies. Where clients consider that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the Department) has recorded their details incorrectly they may request under the FOI Act that the Department amends their details.

To seek such amendment/s of personal records as held by the Department, they will need to complete a Form 424C (copy attached) and provide evidence of their correct details as explained by the form.

There is no fee to lodge an amendment request. FOI Section is currently arranging to refund the \$30 application fee that you have already paid to lodge an FOI request to determine your visa status. Once the amendment/s have been made, the next step is to apply for Certificate of Evidence of Residency Status (CERS). This application is made on a Form 164 (copy attached) and has an application fee of \$70.

In respect of the visa/residency status of a person after gender reassignment, it is unlikely that their visa/residency status would change. The visa/residency held by the client is granted because the client has met criteria associated with that visa. If the visa holder continues to meet these requirements, their visa/residency status will not change.

Difficulties encountered by clients who may be permanent residents, but arrived on parental passports relate mainly to difficulties in locating the record of the original arrival in Australia. These difficulties arise due to the age of the records. For example, the records may not be held electronically or in some instances may have been destroyed. These difficulties, while regrettable, are likely to be encountered by any client who arrived in Australia

in the same circumstances. I can assure you that the Department is committed to working closely with clients in this situation to find alternative ways of establishing the information required.

If you would like to discuss these issues further, please contact The Director, FOI Section on (02) 6223 8565, in respect of the FOI matters and your local departmental office in respect of matters about visa status (locations of departmental offices in Australia can be found at www.immi.gov.au/contacts/australia/index.htm).

Yours sincerely

Louise Smith, Assistant Secretary, Review Coordination Branch Telephone: (02) 6223 8120 Facsimile: (02) 6225 6511 Email: louise.smith@immi.gov.au

Dear Louise, 05/02/2008

Thank you for your letter of the 30th January 2008. I am pleased that a review of procedures will be undertaken, as we are totally confused by all of this. I have sent off form 164 and have received back form 283 with my amended details all as Kathy Anne Noble and back dated to my entry as a permanent resident in Australia.

This was achieved very quickly, as I sent the application on the 8th December 2007 and received form 283 on the 20th December 2007.

We would like some clear indication as to the procedure for people who arrived as Ten Pound Poms and those who arrived as children on their parents' passports. This situation has already caused one person problems, as when she went to Centrelink to change details, she was told at first that she did not exist. As you can imagine this caused her real concern, and she had to try to find details from her parents as to the Flight or Ship that she came out on.

We have so many documents to change, that it can be quite frightening when first experienced. There are some that can only be altered after surgery, as well as many that can be amended before surgery. This can prove very frustrating, especially if one is sent from one Department to another, and many of those Departments do not pass details to other Departments.

The UK system is excellent. Once they granted my Gender Recognition Certificate, they advised all other departments, such as Birth Registry, Pensions and Tax Office automatically.

If the same were done here, I am sure that it would be a great boon to not just us, but government departments as well. Details would then be centralised and would lead to consistency within these areas.

Kathy Anne Noble.

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Good Afternoon Kathy,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Louise Smith, Assistant Secretary, Review Coordination at Immigration to inform you that she has passed on your email dated 5 Feb 08 to the appropriate research officers for a response to be prepared. As this may take some time due to the research involved, this email is to inform you that action is being taken and that a response will be forthcoming

Regards

Karen Robson, Executive Assistant to Louise Smith

The foregoing submission to the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and supporting correspondence were passed to Polare by Kathy Anne Noble, with kind permission to include them in this issue of the NSW Gender Centre Magazine. Names have been omitted in most cases, in order to preserve confidentiality.

Kathy is a tireless worker for transgender rights and deserving of our ongoing respect and gratitude.

KC

STOP PRESS

Late breaking news and a supplementary editorial. The story of Thomas Beatie, an American FTM who is pregnant, is causing tremendous media interest. A lot of prurient and pompous self-righteous moralising has ensued, ignoring the fact that Beatie has broken no laws and does not intend to break any. The fact is that he is a female-to-male transgender who has chosen to retain some of his female organs and is now prepared to bear the child he and his wife want, and his wife cannot now bear, due to a partial hysterectomy.

The only scintilla of justification for the uproar is that the situation involves a third party, namely the unborn child. Since, however, studies by Green et alii have shown that the children of gays and transgenders are slightly better adjusted and happier than the children of heterosexual/non-transgendered parents this argument is rendered null and void. Almost all the critics of the Beaties are speaking from ignorance and prejudice and trying to bully their way into the lives of people whom they do not know and whose brave decisions are their own.

The decision for a female-to-male transgender to bear a child is simply a new expansion of the boundaries which have traditionally bound humankind. I applaud their courage.

KC

News Items of Interest

UK DOCTORS WILL BE FORCED TO ADVERTISE THEIR PREJUDICES

Doctors in Britain will need to advertise their prejudices in future, by the use of posters outside their surgeries, or the use of handouts. If they have ethical objections to abortion or other medical issues, including service to the transgendered they will not only need to make their attitude public but will also be obliged to refer patients to another doctor who does not have the same prejudices.

Fertility services to lesbian couples or unmarried mothers and even cosmetic surgery may come under the protective umbrella of the new legislation.

The General Medical Council says to doctors: "You have an overriding duty to provide care for patients who are in need of medical aid, whatever the cause of that medical need. It is not acceptable to seek to opt out of treating a particular patient or group of patients because of your personal views about them."

CENTRELINK V. TRANSGENDER: CENTRELINK LOSES

Centrelink tried to reduce the pension of a pre-op transgender because she was in a relationship with a woman. Centrelink argued that this was a "marriage-like" relationship and reduced Samantha Scafe's pension to that of a spouse, which is less than that of a single person.

The case went to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Judge John Tamberlin, who ruled that Scafe is female and that she and her partner were in a same-sex relationship.

In an earlier case in 1993 the Federal Court overturned a similar ruling (two votes to one) stating that hormonal therapy and surgery were necessary before a person could be deemed to have transitioned from male to female.

Scafe has been on hormonal medication since 1997 but cannot undertake surgery for medical reasons unrelated to her transgender condition.

Judge Tamberlin said, "Ms Scafe has done everything that she can reasonably be expected to do in order to effect a transition from the male to the female gender, taking into account medical and psychological considerations."

"In reaching a conclusion as the gender of an individual / ... the individual should be evaluated as a complete human being."

Goods and Services

Issue Seventy-five



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An ad. this size costs \$11
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 GLBT Friendly Qualified
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 Free public Self-Help
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 Contact: Alex Gibson.
 Email: alexg75@pnc.com.au
www.onlinecounsellingnsw.com

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 Over ten years experience
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 or Mim 9335 2350
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Wigs International
 12 King Street -
 Newtown 2042
www.wigsinternational.com.au
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 We specially invite all Polare readers
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To Place an Advertisement for Goods and Services in Polare: Please contact the Editor of Polare: resources@gendercentre.org.au or by faxing details to 9569.1176 attention to Polare Editor. Advertisements are included in Polare based on the space available in the magazine. Advertisements in this section should not contain images or logos and should bear some specific relation to the transgender community. Services and goods provided by and for transgender people are preferred.

New South Wales

THE GENDER CENTRE Counselling

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

Outreach service

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

Social and support service

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

Resource development service

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

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

Drug and alcohol service

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

Residential service

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

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

For partners, families and friends

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

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

For service providers, employers and others

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

Gender Centre Co-ordinator,
7 Bent Street
or PO Box 266

Petersham NSW 2049

Tel: (02) 9569.2366

Fax: (02) 9569.1176

gendercentre@bigpond.com

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

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

Counselling Service

4pm-midnight seven days on

(02) 9207.2800

1800 805 379

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

2010 - TWENTY10/GLBT YOUTHSUPPORT

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

PO Box 553, Newtown, NSW, 2042

Youth callers needing help:

Sydney local: (02) 8594 9555

Rural NSW : 1800.65.2010

All other callers:

(02) 8594 9550

Fax: (02) 8594 9559

Email: info@2010.org.au

Web page: www.twenty10.org.au

ACON - AIDS COUNCIL OF NSW

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

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Tel: (02) 9206.2000

Fax: (02) 9206.2069

tty: (02) 9283 2088

ACON - HUNTER

129 Maitland Road

PO Box 220

Islington 2296

Tel: (02) 4927 6808

Fax: (02) 4927 6485

hunter@acon.org.au

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

ACON - MID-NORTH COAST

4 Hayward Street

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: (02) 6584 0943

Fax: (02) 6583 3810

ACON - NORTHERN RIVERS

27 Uralba Street

Lismore NSW 2480

PO Box 6063

South Lismore NSW 2480

Tel: (02) 6622.1555

or 1 800 633 637

Fax: (02) 6622 1520

northernrivers@acon.org.au

ACON - WESTERN SYDNEY

6 Darcy Road,

Wentworthville, 2145

Tel: (02) 9204 2400

Fax: (02) 9891 2088

aconwest@acon.org.au

AFAO (AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS)

National AIDS lobby and safe sex promotion organisation.

PO Box 51

Newtown 2042

Tel: (02) 9557 9399

Fax: (02) 9557 9867

ALBION STREET CENTRE

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

Tel: (02) 9332.1090

Fax: (02) 9332.4219

ANKALI

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

Tel: (02) 9332.1090

Fax: (02) 9332.4219

ASTRA (ASSOCIATION OF SEXY TRANSVESTITES)

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

PO Box 502, Glebe NSW 2037

BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION (BGF)

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

Tel: (02) 9283 8666

free call 1800 651 011

web www.bgf.org.au; email

bgf@bgf.org.au

BREASTSCREEN

Phone 132050

CENTRAL TABLELANDS TRANSGENDER INFORMATION SERVICE

Provides information and directions for anyone seeking medical or psychological assistance in changing gender.

Provides information on gender friendly services available in the Bathurst, NSW Area. Brings together transgenders, their families and friends and provides support and understanding in a non-counselling atmosphere.

Operates 9 am - 8pm Mon - Fri

Tel: 0412 700 924

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

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9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills

Tel: (02) 9206.2031

Fax: (02) 9206.2092

csn@acon.org.au

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 9204 2400

Fax: 9891 2088

csn-westsyd@acon.org.au

6 Darcy Rd, Wentworthville, 2145

PO Box 284, Westmead, 2145

Hunter

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4927 6808\Fax 4927 6485

hunter@acon.org.au

129 Maitland Road, Islington, 2296

PO Box 220, Islington, 2296

MacKillop Centre - Hunter

Training and development opportunities for PLWHA

Tel: 4968 8788

Illawarra

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4226 1163

Fax: 4226 9838

illawarra@acon.org.au

47 Kenny St, Wollongong, 2500

POB 1073, Wollongong 2500

Mid North Coast

Outreach project: by appointment

Tel: 6584 0943

Fax: 6583 3810

mnc@acon.org.au

4 Hayward St, Port Macquarie, 2444

POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

Tel: (02) 9211.0544

Fax:(02)9211.0778

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

Directory Assistance

Issue Seventy-five

information.

PO Box 4898, Glebe, NSW, 2037
www.ftmaustralia.org
mail@ftmaustralia.org

HIV AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

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

INNER CITY LEGAL 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

KIRKTON ROAD CENTRE

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

LES GIRLS CROSSDRESSERS GROUP

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

LIVINGSTONE ROAD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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

(MCC) METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

MCC Sydney is linked with other MCC churches in Australia as part of an international fellowship of Christian churches, with a special concern for any who feel excluded by established religious groups. MCC deplores all forms of prejudice, discrimination and oppression - and seeks to share

God's unconditional love and acceptance of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, race or gender.

96 Crystal Street, Petersham 2049
Phone: (02) 9569.5122
Fax: (02) 9569.5144
Worship Times:
Sundays 10.00 am & 7.30 pm
mcc@eagles.bbs.net.au
http://www.mccsydney.org.au/

MOUNTDRUITTLUXFORD ROAD CLINIC

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

NEON

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

NEWCASTLE SWOP

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

NORTHAIDS

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

Tel: (02) 9982 2310

NUAA - NSW USERS AND AIDS ASSOCIATION

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

345 Crown St, Surry Hills, 2010
PO Box 278, Darlinghurst, NSW, 1300
Tel: (02) 8354 7300
Tollfree:1800.644.413
Fax: (02) 8354 7350
admin@nuaa.org.au

PARRAMATTA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.
Level 2, Parramatta Health

Service,
158 Marsden (cnr. George St)
Parramatta 2150
Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm
Tue 10.00am-4.00pm
Thu 4.00pm-7.30pm

PLWHA) PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

PO Box 831, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Tel: (02) 9361.6011
Fax: (02) 9360.3504
http://www.plwha.org.au/

Katoomba:

P.O. Box 187
Katoomba NSW 2780
Tel: (02) 4782.2119
http://www.hermes.net.au/plwha/plwha@hermes.net.au

POSITIVE WOMEN

Can offer one-on-one support for HIV positive transgender women. Contact Women and AIDS Project Officer or Women's HIV Support Officer at ACON.
Tel: (02) 9206.2000
http://www.acon.org.au/education/womens/campaigns.htm

REPIDU

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

SAGE FOUNDATION (Sex and Gender Education Foundation)

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

Email:
SAGE_Foundation@yahoo.com
SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW

The Seahorse Society is a non-profit self-help group funded by members' contributions. Open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a newsletter.
PO Box 168, Westgate, NSW 2048
or Tel: 0423125 860
www.seahorsesoc.org
crossdress@seahorsesoc.org

SOUTH COAST of NSW from Ulladulla to the VIC Border. We are a group of like-minded people trying to establish a social and support group. Jen Somers, Sexual Health Counsellor, Narooma Community Health Centre, Marine Drive
Narooma, NSW 2546
Tel: (02) 4476.1372

Mob: 0407 214.526
Fax: (02) 4476 1731
jenni.somers@sahs.nsw.gov.au

(SWOP) SEX WORKERS OUTREACH TRANSGENDER SUPPORT PROJECT

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

SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

Provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly people to get together in comfortable, safe and friendly spaces. Pub social in Newtown on 3rd Sunday of every month followed by a meal. All welcome.
PO Box 281 Broadway NSW 2007
Tel: (02) 9565.4281 (info line)
sbn-admin@yahoo.com
http://sbn.bi.org

SYDNEY BISEXUAL PAGANS

Supporting, socialising and liberating bisexual pagans living in the Sydney region.
PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

Welcomes FTM Men.
PO Box 2064, Boronia Park, 2111
Tel: 9879.4979 (Paul Whyte)
paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au

SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

Provides free, confidential health services, including sexuality, sexual function, counselling and testing and treatment of STDs including HIV..
Level 3, Nightingale Wing,
Sydney Hospital, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW, 2000.
Tel: (02) 9382 7440 or freecall from outside Sydney 1800 451 624 (8.30am-5.00pm) Fax:(02) 9832 7475
sshc@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

TOWN & COUNTRY CENTRE

Drop In Centre - Weekly Coffee Nights - 24 hour ph line - regular social activities - youth services - information, advice and referral - safer sex packs and more! - for bisexual, transgender folks and men who have sex with men

Issue Seventy-five

80 Benerembah Street, Griffith
PO Box 2485, Griffith, NSW 2680
Tel: (02) 6964.5524
Fax: (02) 6964.6052
glsg@stealth.com.au

WESTERN SYDNEY HIV/ HEP C PREVENTION SERVICE

Needle and syringe program
158 Marsden St, Parramatta
NSW 2150
Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Fax: (02) 9893 7103

WOLLONGONG - TRAN

Transgender Resource and
Advocacy Network.
A service for people who identify
as a gender other than their birth
gender. Providing a safe and
confidential place to visit, phone
or talk about gender issues.
Thursday AND Friday 9am - 5pm
Tel: (02) 4226.1163

WOMENS & GIRLS DROP IN CENTRE

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

YOUTHBLOCK HEALTH & RESOURCE SERVICE

Free, safe and holistic health
service for young people aged
between 12-24 years in the inner-
West and Canterbury areas of
Sydney. Medical, dental and
counselling services and music,
visual arts, Aboriginal cultural and
health promotion programs
available. SPACE program for
young people questioning their
gender or sexuality.
142 Carrillon Ave, Camperdown
Ph: 9516 2233

A.C.T.

A GENDER AGENDA is a non-
profit group committed to
providing support, education,
information and relief to people
living with any tupe of sex or
gender related condition
(whether symptoms are physical
or mental and are attributable to
genetic or other origin).
PO Box 4010, Ainslie, ACT,
2602 Ph: 0412 882 855
Fax: (02) 6247 0597
Email: polar@home.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

Directory Assistance

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 informa-
tion and referral for gay, bisexual,
MSM and men who are curious about
their sexuality
Email: infor@ntahc.org.au
www.ntahc.au

Queensland

(ATSAQ) AUSTRALIAN TRANSGENDERIST SUPPORT ASSOC. OF QLD.

A non-profit organisation providing
counselling, support, referral and
information, crisis counselling, drug
and alcohol for transgender people,
their families and friends.
Ph: (07) 3843 5024
Email: trans.atsa@pacific.net.au

BRISBANE GENDER CLINIC

Doctors from private practices
with an understanding of the
transgender community ARE
available for consultation by
appointment each Wednesday
afternoon from 1.30pm to
5.30pm.
Phone (07) 3837 5645
Fax: (07) 3837 5640
Level 1, 270 Roma Street,
Brisbane 4000

CAIRNS SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

A public health clinic with an
interest in and experiece of
transgender medicine. Doctors,
nurses and psychologist with
referral to other services as
required.
The Dolls House, Cairns Base
Hospital, The Esplanade, Cairns
Ph: (07) 4050 6205

GOLD COAST SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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

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

QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE

Transsexual semi-supported
accommodation available to those
who identify as Transgender and
who are drug and alcohol free.
Accommodation available for six
or twelve months.
PO Box 386, Chermshire South,
QLD 4032 Ph: (07) 3357 6361
www.queenslandgendercentre.org

SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF QLD

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

(SQWISD) 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.
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: sqwisig@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

Directory Assistance

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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, Marlestone SA 5033

Tel: (08) 8411.0874

ccesai@hotmail.com

www.geocities.com/carrousel_2000

CHAMELEONS

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

PO Box 2603

Kent Town SA 5071

Tel: (08) 8293 3700

Fax: (08) 8293 3900

AH: (08) 8346 2516

DARLING HOUSE

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

64 Fullarton Rd Norwood

PO Box 907 Kent Town

South Australia 5071

Tel: (08) 8334 1606

Fax: (08) 363.1046

Freecall: 1800 888 559

SHINE - SEXUAL HEALTH

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

17 Phillips Street, Kensington,

SA. 5068 Tel: (08) 8431 5177

Fax: (08) 8364 2389

(SATS) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for transsexuals who have changed or are about to change their gender role and for their partners. Also provides information on transsexualism for the community and people with gender identity difficulties.

SATS C/o PO Box 907

Kent Town SA 5071

or the Gay and Lesbian Counselling

Service (Gayline) on: (08) 8422

8400 or country on 1800 182 223

or Sarah on 0409 091 663 or

www.tgfolk.net/sites/satsg/

hrt.html

email: satsgroup@yahoo.com.au

Tasmania

WORKING IT OUT

Tasmania's sexuality and gender support and education service providing counselling and support, mentoring for lesbian, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) Tasmanians and education and training programmes to schools, workplaces, government and non-government organisations. Office hours vary from office to office.

Hobart, 39 Burnett St, North Hobart (03) 6231 1200 or 0429 346 122

Launceston, 45 Canning St, Launceston

Burnie, 11 Jones St, Burnie (03) 6432 3643

www.workingitout.org.au

Email: coord@workingitout.org.au

Victoria

CHAMELEON SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

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

PO Box 79

Altona, VIC.3018

Telephone message bank service (03) 9517 9416

email:

chameleonvicgirls@hotmail.com

robr@vicnet.net.au

FTMPHALLOPLASTY CONTACT

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

Michael Mitchell. Tel: 0405 102 142

Tel: (03) 5975 8916 messagebank

pathwaysau@yahoo.com.au

GENDERAFFIRMATION AND LIBERATION

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

PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Tel: (03) 9517 1237

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

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF VICTORIA

RhED in the sex industry

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

SEAHORSE CLUB OF VICTORIA Inc.

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

GPO Box 86, St Kilda, VIC, 3182

Tel: (03) 9513 8222

http://home.vicnet.net.au/~seahorse
seahorsevic@mbox.com.au

(TGV) TRANSGENDER VICTORIA

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

PO Box 762, South Melbourne, VIC, 3205

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

transgendervictoria@yahoo.com.au

www.vicnet.net.au/~victrans

Western Australia

CHAMELEON SOCIETY

Provides support to crossdressers, their relatives and friends.

PO Box 367,

Victoria Park WA 6979

Tel: 0418 908839 (8pm-10pm)

Email: chameleonswa@email.com

www.chameleonswa.com

FREEDOM CENTRE

1/471 William St,

Northbridge, WA 6003

Ph: (08) 9228 0354 (opening hours)

(08) 9482 0000(admin)

Fax: (08) 9482 0001

Email: info@freedom.org.au

Web: www.freedom.org.au

Provides peer support, information, referrals and a safe social space for young people (under 26) who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer and questioning. We have a monthly drop-in specifically for Trans- and/or gender diverse young people called Gender Q (see below) on the first Thursday of every month from 5-8pm.

GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

2 Delhi St, West Perth, WA, 6005

Ph: (08) 9486 9855

Counselling line (08) 9420 7201

Counselling line country areas 1800 184 527

Email: admin@glcs.org.au

Web: www.glcs.org.au

Gay and Lesbian Community Services provides telephone counselling and other support services for people with diverse sexuality and gender. They have an excellent referral list for trans* friendly doctors, psychs etc.

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.39

MAGENTA

Magenta offers support, education and information to transgender,

Polare page 37
April-June 2008

male and female workers in the sex industry: PO Box 8054 PBC Northbridge, WA 6849
Tel: 08. 9328 1387
Fax: 08. 9227 9606

PERTH INNER CITY YOUTHSERVICE(PICYS)

PO Box 1062, West Leederville, WA, 6901
Ph: (08) 9338 2792
Fax: (08) 9388 2793
Email: picys@westnet.com.au
PICYS provide medium to long-term support and accommodation for young people aged 16 to 25 who would otherwise be homeless. PICYS staff are well informed about TTI issues and are trained to provide young people with specialised support. TTI-specific resources and referrals to medical professionals.

TRANSCOMMUNITYWA

We provide peer support for, information resources about, and advocacy on behalf of, people who are transitioning, are planning to transition, or have transitioned. We also organise discreet social events at which significant others and supporters of our membership are welcome. Contact Michelle on mobile: 0402 236 380 or email shannlee@tpg.com.au, or Lisa on 0427 973 496, email lisonau@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

TRUE COLOURS PROGRAM

1st floor, Trinity Buildings,
72 St Georges Terrace.

PERTH, WA, 6000

Ph: (08) 9483 1333

Fax: (08) 9322 3177

Email:

jaye.edwards@unitingcarewest.org.au

Web:

www.unitingcarewest.org.au

The True Colours program aims to promote safe and inclusive rural and regional communities where young people with a diverse sexuality and gender, their families and friends are supported and affirmed. This

program offers support to young people who are coming out as well as educating the community services sector and community members about the impact of homophobia and heterosexism on these young people, their families and friends.

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

www.free2be.org.au is a WA based website for DSG youth that has a section on gender too (www.free2be.org.au/gender.html)

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.

AISSUPPORTGROUP (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

CHANGELINGASPECTS

A caring national support organisation for Transsexual people, their partners and families. For information, please write or call.
email:knoble@inet.net.au
www.changelingaspects.com

FTMAustralia

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

International

AGENDERNEWZEALAND

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

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

BEAUMONT SOCIETY

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

BEAUMONT TRUST

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

CROSS-TALK

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

FTM INTERNATIONAL

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

FTM NETWORK UK

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

GENDERBRIDGE Inc.

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

GENDER TRUST (THE)

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

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

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



\$50 OFF FIRST VISIT

www.permanence.com.au

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

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,
AODN, NUNA AND STWOP 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. I look forward to hearing from you.
Luke Malone