

April - June 2011

No. 87

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THE FINE PRINT

Polare

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DEADLINE

for submissions to the next
edition of *Polare* is the
eighth of June 2011

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the Gender Centre Service Magazine

The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices.

The Gender Centre is also committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues.

We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, families and organisations, and service providers.

We specifically aim to provide a high quality service which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

the Gender Centre

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



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

DROP-IN

Wenesday 6pm - 8pm

All other times by appointment only



Our Services

- Support and education
- Social and support groups
- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Quarterly magazine *Polare*
- HIV/AIDS information
- Condoms and lube
- Needle exchange
- Accommodation
- Referrals to specialist counselling, medical, HIV/AIDS, education, training, employment, legal welfare, housing and other community services
- Outreach - street, home, hospital and jail
- Counselling and support groups for partners and family

Residential Service

For all enquiries relating to the residential service, please contact us.

Front cover: The winning design for a safe-house sign to be displayed by organisations or individuals accepted as being trans-friendly, similar to the "Safe House" posters designed for school children . The design is by Michael Fox, transman, stand-up comedian and all-round good bloke.

The Manager's Report

Hi, all!

A busy three months, but things appear to be sorting themselves out (or are being sorted out).

The latest major project is the Transgender Anti-Violence Project which is being co-sponsored by the Gender Centre, the City of the Sydney and the NSW Police.

The aim of the exercise is not only to prevent violence against transgenders, but also to gather statistics concerning that violence. For too long there have been no numbers to show how much violence there is, including domestic and self-violence.

The TAVP mission is to provide education, support, assistance referrals and advocacy for transgenders suffering all forms of violence based on gender identity..

Superintendent Donna Adney of the NSW Police and members of the Steering Committee have been active in setting the framework for the project.

One of the essential foundations for the project will be the creation of a data file of reports on transgender-oriented violence. we will be relying on those who suffer violence to report it, and will be happy to arrange for a support worker from TAVP to accompany violence victims to the police to register a report. If you are alone, ask the police to contact the TAVP support staff on 9569 2366 or 1800 069 115 (if you are outside Sydney) during business hours.

Alternatively you can simply lodge a report with TAVP, with your details (name, address, date of birth). This information will be de-identified and used only for statistical and research purposes.

Report:

- physical assaults
- verbal abuse and threats
- sexual assaults
- stalking
- domestic violence
- any other violent crime

Phinn Borg

PLEASE NOTE!

Appointments for counselling should be made directly with the Gender Centre Counsellor.
Phone 9569 2366 Monday-Thursday.

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

The Library is now housed in the Office of the Information and Resources Worker.

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!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR BY EMAIL?

The Gender Centre is compiling a list of email addresses of those clients and friends who would like to be notified of social, support, educational and other functions and events of interest.

Just email us

reception@gendercentre.org.au

Put "Email list" in the subject line and give us your first name and Email address.

Editorial - Katherine Cummings



Most of us have experienced bullying as children, as adolescents and/or as adults. Some of us have even been bullies ourselves [cries of “Shame!”, “Not me!” and “Never!”] and most of us decry bullies and bullying, although it continues in almost every aspect of social life.

Why? Why do people bully? Because they can? Because they achieve some form of boost to their self esteem? Because it is part of the human need for a pecking order (mentioned in my last editorial), a compensation for an inferiority, imagined or real, which cries out for revenge and gratification? Or is it tied in to the criminal motivation to take what is not ours and to exact tribute from the weak?

The bullies of literature are usually macho brutes of low intellect (Flashman in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Mervin and Mr Jonas in *How Green Was My Valley* are typical). The truth is, however, that bullying can be much more subtle and devious than the twisting of an arm or a punch to the solar plexus. The *Macquarie Dictionary* supplies a superficial, populist definition when it refers to “a blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who browbeats smaller or weaker people”. Bullies come in all shapes and sizes, and some bullies are not even people, but rather corporate entities or legal associations. The real definition of bullying should concentrate on the improper use of power, whether that power is physical, social or legalistic.

I return again to the edict “Your right to swing your arm stops just short of my nose”, variously attributed to A.S. Neill, Justice Lerner and Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Whoever said it first, the principle is sound. Violence is unacceptable, except in the prevention of violence, and humans have a right to a peaceful existence as long as their actions do not harm others (in a real, not a conventional social sense).

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We have been treated, *ad nauseam*, recently, to a YouTube broadcast showing a school student, provoked by an aggressive, albeit smaller, bully, retaliating in an effective but regrettable way by lifting his tormentor off the ground and smashing him to the ground. While I admit I wish I had had the strength and the will to do this to some of my tormentors at school (I was a swot and a teacher's pet too often for my own safety), I can still see that the fault lies in inefficient policing of the schoolyard and an apparent unawareness that bullying of this kind was going on. Violence in such situations, however gratifying, is morally wrong.

We live in a culture that frowns on whistle-blowers and informers, yet in the long run, if the authorities are not aware of the problem, they are not going to fix it and it is the obligation of the onlooker to report the situation to those charged with the duty to control it.

Transgenders are often bullied. We are not allowed to self-define and arrange for medical treatment to bring ourselves in line with our innate personalities. We are used to going to gate-keepers of various kinds and having to ‘prove’ our transgender status to the satisfaction of various ‘experts’, whose presence in our lives only emphasises to third parties that we ‘need treatment’. Yet these gatekeepers and their imposition of real life tests and waiting times, controlled access to hormone therapy and permission for eventual surgery have nothing to do with the law. These are onerous guidelines imposed on us by professions who claim to know what is best for us. They probably also hope these ‘rules’ will prevent their being sued by the minority of malcontents in our ranks who are not prepared to take responsibility for their own actions. Some of this is care. Much of it is simply bullying masquerading as care.

Transgenders are used to being bullied by lawmakers, who decree that some of us are ‘recognised transgenders’ and must be treated fully as members of their affirmed gender, while others, because they fail the test by not having been born in Australia, or by being too young, or by being in a loving marriage that both parties wish to preserve, or by not having had irreversible genital surgery, are relegated to a secondary status, partly in limbo, where their

rights as an affirmed man or woman can be challenged, despite the pious hope in the Anti-Discrimination Act that all transgenders be treated as members of their affirmed sex, whether or not they are 'recognised'.

And where is the record being kept of who is 'recognised' and who is not? Or will we be issued eventually with identity cards similar to the ones issued by the RTA for non-drivers, (which incidentally show the birth gender of people who may have been living in their affirmed gender for many years and whose images on these photo-IDs cannot be easily reconciled with their birth gender)?

Finally (for this section of my rant) why are some bodies exempt from the application of the anti-discrimination law? Sporting bodies, small employers and religious organisations can apply for exemptions from the law and may then legally refuse services or membership to transgenders. Why? Because their prejudices might be infringed? Because their ignorance must not be challenged? Because transgenders can and should be humiliated and denied the rights accorded to others?

The alteration of documentation is subject to caveats, and the right to a passport with a gender on it appropriate to one's daily lifestyle comes and goes according to the whim of the latest DFAT Minister although the Courts have seen fit to intervene in at least two cases, so that legal precedents for reasonable treatment of transgenders are being set. A transgender woman is a woman, a transgender man is a man.

When people apply for certain jobs they must submit to a police record check, and during this process are required to note any former names they may have used. These names are then included in the report to the potential employer, whether or not a criminal record has been found, and the resultant 'outing' of the applicant's former identity may very well influence the employer negatively. The comment on one such document I was shown said "*R***** S***** is an alias for T***** G******". The word alias is defined as "known sometimes as", or "an assumed name". In this case it was neither a name used sometimes, nor an assumed name. It was (and is) the legal name of the person

concerned and the only one in use. Not only was personal, irrelevant, information being revealed to a potential employer, it was being revealed in a misleading way through the improper use of the term 'alias'.


By what right are we bullied into undertaking irreversible genital surgery before our documentation can be revised?

Leaving aside the fact that most of us intend to have the surgery as a matter of choice in order to make our acceptance into our innate gender role less complicated, there are a growing number of transgenders who prefer to avoid invasive surgery and keep the genital and reproductive anatomy they were born with (amended here and there, perhaps, by hormonal therapy, implants or mastectomies).

The demand for us to conform physically to a stereotype of a 'man' or a 'woman' is partly due to society's adoption of anatomical taboos which have no place in a thinking society, and partly due to a mythical fear that transgenders who retain their original genitalia will inevitably use them to commit sex crimes, rape, invasive use of gender-assigned toilets, exhibitionism and who knows what else. So it is decreed, in effect, that transgenders who wish to be recognised in society must be neutered for the greater good.

It might be a better notion to punish people for crimes they commit rather than ones they *might* commit.

This issue contains two excellent articles on bullying, one by Sarah Hoffman in the United States who defends her "pink" son, and one by the redoubtable Tracie O'Keefe who lashes out in all directions, including an attack on this magazine, accusing us of "constantly referring to ISGD groups as transgender", and thus "profoundly offending the sensibilities of those who do not feel they are transgender". I refute the accusation but defend Tracie's right to be wrong. Nobody owns a word. I have recorded my views on terminology often and am willing to do so again if it will create better understanding. In the meantime, let us assume that we are working for a common goal, in our own idiosyncratic ways.

Katherine 

My Son, the Pink Boy by Sarah Hoffman

A random mom on the playground, looking serious and a little bit concerned, asks me, “Do you think your son might grow up to be gay?”

It’s never crossed my mind. Really. Not since that last Random Mom asked me five minutes ago.

Watching Sam on the monkey bars, his long hair blowing in the wind, I say, “I don’t know. He’s always just liked feminine things.”

Random Moms across America think they know: My son has got to be gay. He wears khakis today but wore a dress to school from age four to six; he used to do ballet and still doesn’t like sports; in preschool he was all about playing princess but now is all about Pokemon; and, in spite of the clear gender divisions in third grade, he plays with both girls and boys. I mean, what straight boy is into that kinda freaky gender mash-up?

Well, my husband, for one. And all metrosexuals, for another coupla-million-ish. My husband used to help his mother choose curtains. He now drives a motorcycle and hunts deer. He still likes curtains, which he now calls “window treatments” (*How gay is that?* Random Mom mutters). But really, haven’t you met a guy like this, the one you think is gay when you first met him, but then realize that his sexuality doesn’t match his gender presentation?

And if you get busy thinking about femmy boys who grow up to be straight, you might also start thinking about butch boys who grow up to be gay, like all those bears and leather daddies I see walking around the Castro. Then you might have to admit that, though it *often* does, childhood gender expression doesn’t *always* correlate to adult sexuality.

I recently discovered that America’s favorite telepsychologist and I actually agree on that. Dr. Phil’s website tells Robby, the mother of a five-year-old boy who loves Barbies and wearing feminine clothes: “This is not a

precursor to your son being gay.” I got a little excited reading this. The conflation of gender expression and sexuality is so ubiquitous in our society that it was refreshing to hear our country’s second-highest-rated talk show host giving the same message to millions of Americans that I’ve given to dozens (literally *dozens!*) of Random Moms on playgrounds across my fair city. Reading on, however, the beautiful Dr. Phil/Ms. Hoffman mind-meld crumbles. Dr. Phil — who implores us all to “get real” — tells Robby that she should not buy her son Barbie dolls or “girl’s” clothes, and that she should “Take the girl things away, and buy him boy toys ... Support him in what he’s doing, but not in the girl things.” Support him, but take away the things he loves to play with?

And does Dr. Phil really imagine that Robby’s son will stop being interested in Barbie just because Robby throws his dolls in the trash? What kid forgets about his favorite toy just because it’s been taken away? (What kid doesn’t want the forbidden thing *more* when it’s taken away?) As Dr. Phil advises Robby, Random Moms advise me to encourage my son

“...should we - parents, teachers, bystanders, infotainment talk-show hosts - stand up and say it’s not acceptable to make fun of people who are different?”

to do “boy” things like play soccer and get fixated on trains. But really, has that *ever* worked?

Think about it: How easy is it to force a tomboy into a dress? A girly-girl into playing football? And I’d really like to see Dr. Phil make a sports-loving he-boy wear Tinkerbell underpants. And *like* it.

Gender identity isn’t something we just impose on kids and expect them to suck it up, like eating vegetables or going to school. It’s part of who they are, whether that satisfies us as parents or not. I write (under a pen name) about raising my gender-nonconforming son for magazines, radio, and my blog. I get all kinds of e-mail from readers telling me that if I just stopped *encouraging* my son to be girly that he’d man up and try out for the football team. Ah, yes: I am the All Powerful Mother, whose magic is

strong enough to make boys run from Thomas trains to pink tutus. Really, I'm *that* good. And if I just directed my magic toward good and not evil, then my boy would become all boy.

The problem is that, as a mother, I'm too powerful. Or too weak. We're not sure which. Because I've also been told that I need to learn to parent forcefully, to learn to stand up and say NO. That my son wouldn't be like he is if I simply didn't allow him to be like he is. But here's the truth: I'm actually kind of a NO-saying badass. Check me out: Can we throw this baseball in the kitchen? NO. Can we eat chocolate cake for breakfast? NO. Can we make fun of the girl in the wheelchair? NO. I really can haul out a NO when I need to, and I whip it out many times a day. But I try to save NO for things that actually cause demonstrable harm to property, to my children or to other people.

Is it really my maternal strength/weakness that caused my son to adore pink Marabou-feather slippers at age three? You decide. But consider that mothers have regularly been blamed for their children's — especially their sons' — quirks and challenges.

In the 1950s, psychologist Leo Kanner coined the phrase “refrigerator mother” and used it to blame mothers for causing autism in their children (needless to say, Kanner's theory was later discredited by actual science). From the academic paper “Children, Work, and Family: Some Thoughts on ‘Mother Blame’” we learn that mothers have similarly been blamed for a host of issues in their offspring including schizophrenia, bed-wetting, learning disabilities and, my personal favorite, “homicidal transsexualism.”

You may remember momblogger Nerdy Apple Bottom (who goes by the name of Sarah — no relation), whose November blog post “My Son Is Gay” went viral and has now generated over 46,000 comments. After her post, Sarah was chastised by her church for standing up to the other preschool mothers who criticised her and her son for the way he busted out of gender

norms (on Halloween! We're not even talking about the glamfest that has walked out of my house on any old Tuesday). Her church accused her of “promoting gayness” and threatened to kick her out of the entire denomination.

The notion that parents are responsible for spreading gayness (like butter, or an STD) is one buoyed by conservative religious organisations like Exodus International and Focus on the Family. Focus's ousted founder, the famed radiovangelist James Dobson, offers his book *Bringing up Boys* as a guide for “parents to lay a healthy foundation for heterosexual identity for their children.” In other words, to use reparative therapy to try to ungay them before the gayness spreads.



Joseph Nicolosi, founder of NARTH, the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality, penned the DIY reparative therapy bible, *A Parent's Guide to Preventing*

Homosexuality. NARTH has long and loudly argued that feminine boys are pre-homosexuals who can be ungayed with a just-so combination of a mom who backs off and a dad who takes his son out to pump gas and light the barbecue.

It would seem that Dr. Phil has torn a page from Nicolosi's book, a book in which Nicolosi tells parents to replace feminine toys, games and clothing with masculine ones, stressing the importance of “extinguishing feminine behavior” with “gentle and consistent disapproval.” But where these two popular scolds differ is on the moral value of homosexuality.

Dr. Phil sides with the American Psychiatric Association, publisher of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, broadly considered the arbiter of mental health. The APA declassified homosexuality as a mental illness nearly 40 years ago. Dr. Phil tells Robby, “If your son is gay ... it won't be a choice. It will be something that he's pre-wired to do.”





Pink toy

Elsewhere on his website, Dr. Phil tells a mother who is concerned about her lesbian daughter, “Homosexuality is not a learned behavior. A sexual orientation is inherited. You are wired that way.” He asks, “What difference does it make if she is gay? Accept her, support her, and do not be judgmental. It is difficult enough for her to live openly and honestly in this society. Don’t put your judgment on top of that.”

But *definitely* rain that judgment down on your five-year-old son.

So I’m really trying to figure this out. Dr. Phil tells us that it’s OK to be gay (just like the APA), but it’s not OK for boys to play with Barbie (just like NARTH), because ... well, that’s where I get stuck. Because ... they might grow up to be gay? But ... they won’t necessarily, he says. And around we go.

Perhaps Dr. Phil’s thought process is just terribly muddled (the more charitable explanation among those I’ve considered). A more likely explanation is that Dr. Phil really isn’t OK with homosexuality and thinks that it can be prevented in boyhood if you just chuck the Barbies and say NO. If so, he hides this message fairly well — or at least confuses his viewers with his homos-good/proto-homos-bad schtick.

And speaking of confusion, Dr. Phil tells Robby, “Direct your son in an unconfusing way ... You don’t want to do things that seem to support the confusion at this stage of the game.”

Who’s confused? My son knows exactly what he likes. When Sam was four and his male peers trick-or-treated as Batman and Spiderman and gorillas, Sam was a princess. At five, he was a

queen, regal and proud and full of the royal prowess that Disney offers all little girls. He liked feather boas and lip gloss and dancing. Did he think he was a girl? Nope. Was he confused about being a boy? Nope. Did he need to be taught what boys are supposed to like? Nope — how boys are supposed to behave was abundantly clear from the trains and trucks we bought him before we realized he was a pink boy, the behaviour of all the boys he knew, the messages on TV, and the judgments of all the Random Moms. He just liked what he liked, the way other kids did — only his likes were different.

Anti-gay organisations are clear about why boys like Sam need to change. But Dr. Phil’s muddled message reflects a broader, mostly unspoken cultural bias in America — even among Americans who are accepting of gay people — that femmy boys are somehow nebulously bad (though no one can actually articulate why). Dr. Phil — or NARTH — isn’t making a stink over girls who wear jeans and play soccer. So what, exactly, is wrong with a boy who likes Barbie?

America, talk to me. I’m all ears. And if you can’t think of an un-muddled answer, then think about this: Everywhere — on playgrounds and in homes across America, in Disney movies and on national television, on high school and college campuses — pink boys are the brunt of jokes, made to feel inferior, mocked until they take their own lives. Feminine boys are among the last people it’s OK for our culture to hate.

Indeed, one of the most popular arguments against letting boys express their feminine sides is that people will make fun of them. Which makes me wonder: should we hide who we are because people are mean? Or should we — parents, teachers,



Blue toy

bystanders, infotainment talk-show hosts — stand up and say it's not acceptable to make fun of people who are different?

Random Mom doesn't know who or what my son is going to grow up to be, any more than she knows who or what *her* kid is going to grow up to be. Whether or not she shares the judgments of America's religious conservatives and reparative therapists, or even Dr. Phil, she's repeating cultural biases that she's absorbed, raising her eyebrows at the things that might, to her, signal future gayness.



Toy

In this I can hear the click of the first domino falling into the second in the cascade that flows from judgment to disapproval to bullying. As social acceptance of gay people grows, it's time to look critically at the lingering disapproval of things we once thought were precursors to gayness.

Because the problem ain't Barbies. It's bullies.

oo

"My son, the pink boy" originally appeared in the magazine *Salon*, and appears in *Polare* by kind permission of *Salon* magazine and Ms Hoffman. The editor would like to express her appreciation to both parties for their ready co-operation. KC

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The Gender Centre runs a Youth Support Group(16-25 years old)

The next group will start when we have eight people interested in participating and will run for eight weeks

*Call the Gender Centre
 9569 2366*

All gender questioning trans and gender queer young people are welcome to participate

The Gender Centre will be hosting an information and support group for parents who have children (any age) who are transgender or gender diverse).

The first meeting will be on Friday, 25 February from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.

A light supper will be available.

Contact Liz or Anthony on 9569 2366

Barbecues and other events

Easter Barbecue Saturday 16 April (Noon to 4.00pm)

Christmas Barbecue Saturday 17 December (Noon to 4.00pm)



Locations to be advised

Watch the Gender Centre Website, Twitter and Facebook

Change of mailing list?

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NSW 2049

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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 ... why not come along, trade questions, answers, thoughts and support.....

A discussion group will be forming soon, but we need people to sign up in advance so that the programme can be properly planned. For more information call Liz or Anthony on 9569 2366.

**Do You Believe You Are
Intersexed?**

If so and you would like to know more and meet others like yourself then contact:

OII Australia [Organisation Intersexe Internationale] at PO Box 1553, Auburn, NSW, 1835 or at:

oii australia@bigpond.com or visit our website at www.oii australia.com

The Women's Group meets for discussion and mutual support, sharing of experiences and opinions.


The meetings are normally held on the last Monday of each month at the Gender Centre from 3.00pm to 4.00 pm. The next meeting would have fallen on Easter Monday, and has been deferred for a week, so that it will be held on Monday, 2 May. There will be a guest speaker (Prof. Raewyn Connell, author of several books on gender)

**Are You Young and Transgendered ?
Do You Write Creatively?
Interestingly?**

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 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 have encountered many disadvantages of early transition. They may lack financial security, established reputation and social acceptance. We would like to hear your suggested strategies to help in such situations.

You are encouraged to contribute material for the April-June issue of *Polare*. Please send your contribution to: The Editor, *Polare*, PO Box 266, Petersham, NSW, 2049 by 8 March 2011



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**Sex and Gender Education
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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 **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!



Boris Dittrich, a Dutch former Member of Parliament, has been visiting Australia on behalf of the Human Rights Watch's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Program.

Dittrich was a member of the Dutch National Parliament for more than twelve years, and during that time he initiated same-sex marriage laws and adoption laws for GLBTs who wished to adopt children. The Netherlands was the first country to enact such laws.

Dittrich also worked on the UN conference which led to the Yogyakarta Principles being adopted in 2007. He studied at Leiden University, served as a District Court Judge and has written two books on LGBT rights.

On 25 March 2011 a meeting was arranged at the UNSW Law School by the Australian Human Rights Centre, at which Mr Dittrich spoke about his techniques for achieving change. He then fielded questions from the

gathering, which included staff from UNSW, students, and invitees from ACON, the Gender Centre and other organisations.

Dittrich is an inspiring speaker and demonstrated eloquently that much can be achieved if one is prepared to argue openly and logically for social change. KC

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Anthony 9569 2366

Central Coast Transgender Support

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FTMs Win Right To Take Case to High Court

Two West Australian FTMs won the right to be accepted legally as men, despite retaining their reproductive organs, after the State Administration Tribunal ruled that it was not necessary for them to have surgery to remove these organs in order to be considered male.

The ruling by the Tribunal was then appealed by the State Attorney General and the ruling was overturned. The Attorney General's argument was that if the situation had been permitted it would have created a precedent for people who were legally male to be able to bear children (as Thomas Beattie recently did in the United States).

The FTMs, whose names have been suppressed, have appealed to the High Court to hear their case and on 8 April the High Court granted them leave to argue their case before it.

Winning the case would be a significant step forward in establishing the rights of transgenders to seek legal affirmation of their innate gender, without needing to undergo invasive surgery, effectively depriving them of the right to have their own children in the establishment of their families.



Anthony Carlino

How far is your shadow cast?

Many people like to believe that they know themselves very well. Quite often, despite this belief, it is not the case.

In Jungian psychology, the “shadow” forms part of the unconscious mind and represents those parts of the personality we find difficult to uphold in our

own view of ourselves. While these aspects of the self we deny could be any trait or emotion, commonly it is those behaviours that we perceive (accurately or inaccurately) are going to be frowned upon by others and not welcomed.

After all, who likes to admit that at times they can be short or rude to others? Who finds it easy to say that they have it within them to be selfish at times? It is also worth pointing out that sometimes people also deny the existence of traits that are often well received such as kindness and compassion – it is not just the less “received” traits which are kept in the shadow.

It is important to identify the paradox within all of this. Many people make the mistake of believing that the identification of certain aspects of ourselves will give those traits free reign and control over how we behave. If I admit freely that I have a part of myself I am not comfortable with or that others might not like, won't that mean I give it more power? It actually works in reverse to this. The deeper in the shadow a particular part of me exists, the more likely I am to act out of it in a number of ways. I might vehemently criticise and identify it in others without owning it for myself (in psychology speak this is known as “projection”). Perhaps I may seek to express it by doing to another what I would actually like to do for myself or be supported to do (retroreflection). Lets use gender as a way of illustrating this.

The individual whose gender is kept in the shadow, that is to say, their need to express their gender is denied, is much more likely to be under the control of that unmet need.

An example might be the married biological male whose inner sense of gender is resoundingly that of a female, who keeps this in the shadow and thus out of awareness. Unable to acknowledge that she is female, this need is

projected onto another person by seeking to control how her wife dresses, acts and behaves. Her gender seeks to express itself by getting another person to dress as she would if it was brought into the “light” of self-awareness. Her shadow has an enormous amount of control over her behaviours and relationship without her being aware. It goes without saying the relational difficulties that might ensue from such a controlling pattern.

The counselling process involves supporting an individual to become aware of all their parts and the connection between them. By coming to acknowledge the traits and behaviours that were once denied we start to accept and know who we really are.

More importantly, we have more conscious choice as to whether we act out of them.

In the above example, the acceptance that “I am a woman” may well result in an expression of gender for herself rather than trying to get others to do it for her. She now has the option of expressing her true gender for herself since it has come into her awareness. It is also likely this will have benefits for her relationship as well.

So I challenge you, the reader, to ask yourself, “What parts of me are out of my awareness and form part of my shadow?” This may seem contradictory in the sense that how can I be aware of something which is supposedly out of my awareness? A good place to start is to think of those traits or emotions that we might either admire or loathe in others particularly strongly.

As an example, sometimes when I hear a statement during sessions along the lines of “Oh I admire that person so much because they are so courageous/strong/self-assured,” what I am being told is that these are the traits in the shadows. The ensuing exploration can be both a challenging and rewarding experience for those willing to acknowledge those things that can be difficult to accept about ourselves. Perhaps more importantly, it affords someone the chance to be more self-aware and in turn have more choice with how they want to relate to others in the world. That people become more comfortable with who they are is another wonderful impact of this exploration.

Readers, what is in your shadow?



Counselling at the Gender Centre is a free service and can be arranged by calling the Centre on 9569 2366 to make an appointment.

Bullying and Intersex, Sex and/or Gender Diverse (ISGD) People



Tracie O'Keefe

Intersex, sex and/or gender diverse (ISGD) people includes groups people who are intersex, transexed, transsexual, transgendered, cross-dressers, androgynous, without sex and/or gender identity or people with culturally specific sex and/or gender differences. No one person can be ISGD, it is a phrase to describe a collective of groups of people.

Let me start this article by saying that bullying is endemic in all walks of society as it is part of human nature but a civilised and egalitarian society attempts to eliminate it as much as humanly possible. Marginalised groups like ISGD people, however, can be particularly targeted for bullying within the greater society.

Australia as a country has a rich and diverse cultural history starting with its varied native Aboriginal tribes. The limit to how sex and/or gender diversity was traditionally dealt with is beyond my knowledge. I have, however, met Aboriginal people who were ashamed of their sex and/or gender diversity and others whose family and communities accepted them fully. The difference often seemed to be the extent to which the person was willing or able to educate their communities. Since family and country is so important to native Australians, indigenous intermediaries can often be used to help those communities learn about a person's differences, aiding acceptance of that person as a varied human being.

The white face arriving in Australia was, however, a different story. Many of those early settlers were uneducated people who sought moral guidance from the Catholic Church, which has persecuted ISGD people for over a hundred years. The Pope and Catholic Church still castigate and isolate ISGD people today. As my dear friend norrie, who is a Christian, says about that kind of Christianity, 'That doesn't sound like any Jesus I have read about'.

Later as other cultures arrived they brought their own prejudices and superstitions about ISGD people. While our cities are melting pots where many out-ISGD people seek cultural safety and acceptance in a metropolitan atmosphere, the bush, when it is redneck country, can be scary and dangerous, physically, psychologically and

socially for out-ISGD people.

Some families are amazingly supportive of their sex and/or gender diverse relatives and when that happens it certainly makes life easier for those people and helps them to be confident in life. But when families are not supportive it can be devastating to that person and

undermines the whole basis of their confidence in life. Sometimes families treat those people as the family runt of the litter to vent their frustration on. While an individual can seek help to educate their family, if in the end nothing changes then leaving that family unit may be an option to consider. All parents need to learn it is their job to listen more than to speak.

The workplace can also be a difficult place for out-ISGD people because some companies promote scapegoat mentalities or ruthless competitiveness. Whilst there are some laws to promote equality in the workplace for ISGD groups of people in some states, they are wholly insufficient at the moment. Last year the Australian Human Rights Commission held a public consultation to extend the Sex Discrimination Act to include discrimination on the grounds of sex and/or gender diversity. The recommendations it made to the Federal Attorney General's office, however, have yet to translate into any real laws.

If you are a young person being bullied at school because you may be sex and/or gender diverse it can seem overwhelming. Since you have no economic power or choice to walk away you can feel trapped. It is good to make allies, confide in the school counsellor, talk to a teacher, contact a support group, or tell your parents. If you are disabled tell your carer.

Lobby the school Head to put in place a sex and gender equality policy. If all this fails go into a

local solicitors' office and ask them to represent you in taking out a case for negligence against the school on a *pro bono* basis. Remember life has truly amazing things to offer you when you grow up and it is so well worth hanging in there. Those who may seem to have the power over you as child will not have that when you are an adult.

Disabled and older ISGD people who are either dependent on visiting carers, or those living in an institution, can also be subject to bullying by those they depend on. This may include physical or sexual abuse, extortion or being taunted because of their differences. Name-calling or being ostracised in an enclosed, small community can lead to deep depression and feelings of not being able to escape the abuse. Another problem in this area is that client/staff ratios can be stretched by government or private contractors running such facilities so that clients with special needs often do not get the care they deserve. In these cases alerting a social worker to assess the situation is probably the best course of action by the person or on their behalf so they may be moved or the situation addressed.

Domestic violence and bullying of people who are sex and/or gender different is something I have seen a lot of over the years. The individual or groups of people may end up with low self-esteem due to their personal or group experiences. That can sometimes mean that sex and/or gender diverse people can enter into relationships with partners who are less than respectful.

They may put up with that behaviour because they have deep-seated feelings that they really do not deserve anything more or fear they could not get another partner. It often takes a long time for the realisation to sink in that they might be better off without that relationship or that the couple needs some professional help. Remember love is what you do, not what you say. Watch more than you listen. Good partners are those that add to your life, respectfully, kindly, helpfully and positively and do not drain it like vampire.

The media and journalists also constantly bully ISGD people. Untrue stories are written but the

publication knows the person cannot afford to sue. Articles can be made to put a slant on ISGD people to make them appear suspicious, disreputable, dishonest or perverted, just to sell more publications.

Radio and television programmers frequently prohibit ISGD people's voices in the media, particularly on religious programmes.

It has to be said that the greatest bullies of ISGD people today in Australia are the State and Federal governments. The lack of laws to protect ISGD groups of people and help them to fit harmoniously into society is nothing less than outright prejudice and an abuse of human rights. There are, however, many of us lobbying to change that and we are having success piece by piece. Each change is the result of many years of work but you can be assured we will keep fighting for all ISGD people's rights. Each new generation will bring another crop of campaigners who will continue the cause.

Bullying within the ISGD groups is also a problem. Many intersex people make Internet postings saying how trans people have a choice about their identities, which is offensive, as they do not. Trans people can be insensitive about the trauma that some intersex people go through, too. This very journal constantly refers to ISGD groups of people as transgender which many of us are not and are profoundly offended by this lack of sensitivity. Transsexual people often demean transgender people and transgender people do the same to cross-dressers. It is also untrue that gay people are more sensitive to ISGD people. They are not, and are extremely offensive at times. While some ISGD people may be gay the majority are not.

So many in the medical profession, psychologists and counsellors have profoundly dedicated themselves to helping ISGD groups in the past but many have abused them as well. Some clinicians unfortunately do not listen to their patients' concerns, are dismissive, and force unwanted treatments on people and withhold treatments they want. As a child I was locked away in an institution in a small room one and half metres by two metres for years on end and experimented on for years. I survived and prospered. In my youth I was bullied by a

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ruthless psychopath of a psychiatrist who nearly drove me to my grave because I could not be what he thought I should be. I survived that too. I survived and prospered regardless of what happened to me. I won. The labelling of ISGD people as mentally disturbed is unacceptable and prejudicial. We are **different** and to those professional fraudsters who propagate such rubbish I say, "Deal with it, Charlatan!"

Bullies, of course, need victims. They can spot a victim across a crowded room so do not behave, hold yourself or speak like a victim. Some people turn themselves into victims by the way they present themselves. Hold your head up high. Be proud of who you are. That does not mean sharing your confidence with everyone in the supermarket but it does mean being stronger than the bully thinks you are. Many ISGD people are stealth about their sex

and/or gender diversity publicly because they fear bullying. Some are unable to be stealth, and some of us just do not want to be. If you are threatened with violence remove yourself from that situation immediately, go to a safe place and seek help. Know where the safe places are, lobby for safe places, and create safe places.

The future can be bright for ISGD groups of people but only if those people themselves are part of making it so - if that's you, it's up to you. Thoughts of suicide are frequent in people being bullied for any reason and they should be talked about with caring professionals who can help you. If you are being bullied get help

Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH ND is a sexologist, psychotherapist and family therapist at the Australian Health and Education Centre, Sydney.



Dont Forget the Rally in Canberra on May 11. See p.11 for details

News Items of Interest

TRANSGENDER WOMAN CLEARED OF ETHICAL MISCONDUCT.

Dana Beyer has survived a charge brought against her by a group calling itself Citizens for a Responsible Government, who alleged that Beyer intimidated people into signing a petition against a move to remove transgender people from the local anti-discrimination law.

The ethics commission ruled against the witnesses because of their persistence in using inappropriate pronouns for Ms Beyer.

IGNORANCE AND BIGOTRY RAMPANT OVER TODDLER'S NAIL POLISH

A photo on the J Crew [clothing company] website showing the creative director, Jenna Lyons, sharing a moment with her son, whose toenails have been painted pink, has created a furore led by Fox News and other idiot right wingers who forecast doom for the little boy, who will, according to a Fox op.ed by psychologist Keith Ablow, need to have money set aside for future psychotherapy.



Lucky for me, I ended up with a boy whose favourite color is pink.

This is, of course, the first time a small boy has been seen in the act of dressing up and it

goes without saying that he is probably headed for a degraded transgender and/or homosexual life as a result.

Not only that, this is clearly a symptom of a cultural shift towards abandoning “all trappings of gender identity” which Ablow claims could be dangerous “since its outcomes are not known.”

Erin Brown from the conservative Media Research Centre says the image is “blatant propaganda celebrating transgendered children”.

On the other hand, public support seems to be running strongly in favour of Ms Lyons, including a supportive email from Sarah Hoffman, whose article on her “pink boy” appears on pp.6-9 of this issue.


BRITISH GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR TRANS HELP ON ACTION PLAN

The Conservative/Liberal Democrat government in Britain will publish a “Transgender Action Plan” later in 2011. Members of the trans community are being asked for input.


A survey asking specific questions about the issues most important for trans people has been created asking trans respondents to prioritise health care, the fight against tgransphobia, improved equality legislation and other areas of contention.

The Minister for Equality, Lynne Featherstone has sent out an e-bulletin stating that responses will enable the Government to establish initial action points that the trans community feel are most important.

Ms Featherstone pointed out that progress made for equality and acceptance of gay, lesbian and bisexual people has not been paralleled by similar progress for the trans communities and promised that this situation would be remedied..




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2010

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

Newsletter

Our newsletter - Torque is published four times a year for the benefit of members, their families and service providers. Torque is available as a pdf document which is emailed to you or available on our website. All the information about Torque is on the website at www.ftmaustralia.org/resources/torque.html

OzGuys Discussion List

Our e-mail discussion list is called OzGuys.

OzGuys - is open to FTM Australia members living in Australia and New Zealand.

Goals of the discussion list include:

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

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

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

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nights
5.30 - 8pm**

**Yummy food - New friends
- Free -
Friends and Family
are welcome**

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Parents' Groups by Liz Ceissman

Issue Eighty-Seven

The Gender Centre recognises that parents are an important part of the Trans community. Because of this we are running two distinct and important parents' groups throughout 2011.

Families are always an integral part of who we are. How we relate to and stay connected with our families is an important element in our lives. Having a transgender family member does present its own challenges, but it should not be a trigger for families to break down nor for individuals to feel isolated and alone.

The two groups the Centre is offering are an initial step in providing support, and in developing and maintaining strong connectedness in family units.

The first group is for parents who are transgender. This group is run on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to midday. The aim of this group is to discuss and develop responses to issues. From these discussions a resource booklet will be produced to help transgender parents Statewide.

It is hoped that through participation in this group transgender parents can develop a greater sense of empowerment around family issues, and will develop a sense of community with an understanding that other parents are experiencing similar circumstances.

The second group is one which supports parents who have transgender children. This group is a unique opportunity for parents to meet and share their experiences and concerns in a safe and supported environment. This group meets on the second Monday of every month from 6.00pm at the Gender Centre offices. Guest speakers will be part of this group to provide up to date and relevant information about pertinent issues for



families and parents. There is no age limit for either group. Parents who are transgender can come and chat about issues relevant to them in relation to their children whose ages may range from young people to adult. Parents who have transgender children are also welcome no matter



what age their children are. Children will always be children in their parents' eyes.

Not all of the sessions in these groups will be of interest to everyone as each

session will address discrete issues, ranging from legal perspectives to dealing with bureaucracies. In order to know what sessions will be relevant for you, it is always a good idea to call and ask for an information brochure that sets out the session plans for the year.

If you live in rural or regional NSW and wish to access support and cannot join these groups, you can still be linked to support through the groups. The parents of transgender children who were involved in the initial consultation were happy to have the minutes of each meeting made available to those who were unable to be present.

If you want further information or live in rural or regional NSW and wish to be involved at a distance please call Liz or Anthony at the Gender Centre. Phone:

(9569 2366 Mon-Fri or 1800 069 115 9-5 Mon-Fri for those outside the Sydney metropolitan area).

Liz Ceissman
Senior Case Manager
The Gender Centre

**Polare page 21
April-June 2011**

Issue Eighty-Seven *Toni's Story: from Boy to Girl to Bride and Beyond*
by Toni Thompson

I was born in 1944 and reared in a small country town called (Boorowa) in NSW. I never felt like a normal male or looked like one. I used to get picked on at and after school, being taunted about being too pretty to be a male, and also being bashed on a regular basis.

I left home when I was fifteen years of age and moved to Canberra where I lived with my Aunt and Uncle till I was eighteen years of age, then branched out on my own.

I met a man who I saw on a regular basis. He asked me to go to Sydney with him for a long weekend. When we arrived in Sydney he took



Toni's childhood (Toni at right)

me to a club (The Purple Onion) in Kensington. It was the first time I had ever seen a drag queen (as we were called in those days).

I thought I was in Heaven, at last I saw there were people like me out there who liked to dress as and look

like women.

I moved to Sydney a year later. I took a job at St Vincents hospital, (I worked there for ten years) and started taking hormones to develop breasts and I met a few ladies who had been for male-to-female surgery.

I decided that was what I wanted to do so I saved my money and flew to Egypt to have my op. done. (I had never been outside NSW before let alone up in a plane).

A few months later I went out to Les Girls at Kings Cross. There I met a bouncer who took a fancy to me. We dated for a while, then he asked me to marry him and I agreed. We went to the Catholic Church and asked them to marry us but they said "No ... I was born a male and would die as one".

(I told the priest where to put his church.)

We then went to the Church of England (of which my fiance was a member) and asked them to marry us.

I told the minister about what the Catholic Church had said and he replied that if I had not

told him of my gender he would have been no wiser. He couldn't marry us on my birth certificate because it was as male.

He asked me if I had a passport as female (I did) so he said he would marry us using my passport as I D.



The happy bride and groom

When I met his parents and

informed them we were going to marry I also informed them of my gender.

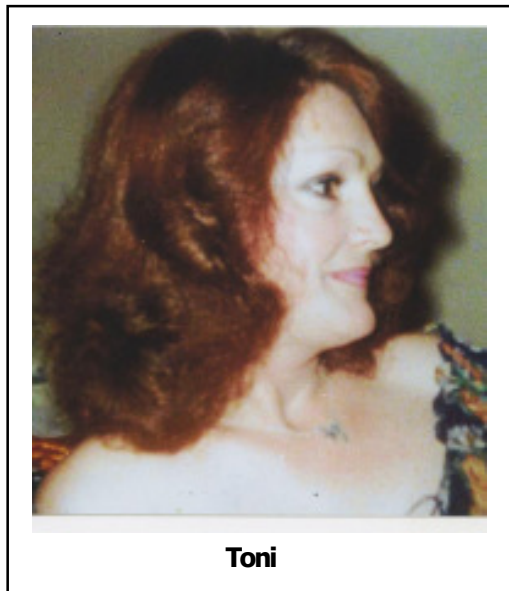
Within three days his mother and her sister arrived at my door. They asked if they could see my op. I showed them and I have been my mother-in-law's much-loved daughter-in-law ever since.

We had a lovely wedding, all our parents

attended and my father gave me away. We lived together for three years until he was unfaithful, and we separated.

My husband and I remain married and I am still close friends with his family and keep regular contact with them.

There you have it ... my life so far, but still lots more to come!



Toni

This autobiography by Kathy Anne Noble, one of the most dedicated activists and advocates for the cause of the transgendered in Australia is a valuable and useful addition to the few transgender books written by Australians (or Ten Pound Poms who have transmogrified into Australians).

Before listing its good qualities I feel impelled to say that this could have been a much better book, and much more useful and readable if it had been edited by a second party to eliminate the many errors of punctuation, grammar and spelling and the confusing layout and repetitive passages. A multitude of letters and emails are reproduced and these could have been laid out much more clearly if addresses and logos had been eliminated and a single line supplied above each, showing who the missive was from, who it was to and the date. Kathy Anne's address appears many, many times, as does her "Love and Peace" sign-off and these become 'noise' impeding the progress of her argument.

I assume Kathy believed her primary audience to be transgenders but many will not be, or will have little background knowledge of the field. It is cavalier to throw in a reference "re Alex" or "re Kevin" without at least a brief description of who Alex and Kevin are and why their cases are so important in the Australian milieu. Other names are encountered without explanation and, from memory, only Georgina Beyer's accomplishments are outlined when her name is invoked.

Kathy has an idiosyncratic attitude to capitalisation and many nouns receive capital letters they don't need, as in Victorian novels or German grammar. Why should transsexual be capitalised if homosexual is not?

When she adds her comments to other people's correspondence or legal documents she tends to use parentheses (like these) rather than square brackets [like these]. Byconvention, square brackets are used to inform the reader that the words have been supplied and were not in the original text. Similarly the convention of italicising book and periodical titles is not observed. There is a very full contents list, almost page by page in some instances and if one were to photocopy this and keep it beside

one while reading it would help to clear up some of the complication.

Not Kathy's fault but it is a pity that Susan Booth, who wrote the Foreword does not know that Scotland is part of the UK.

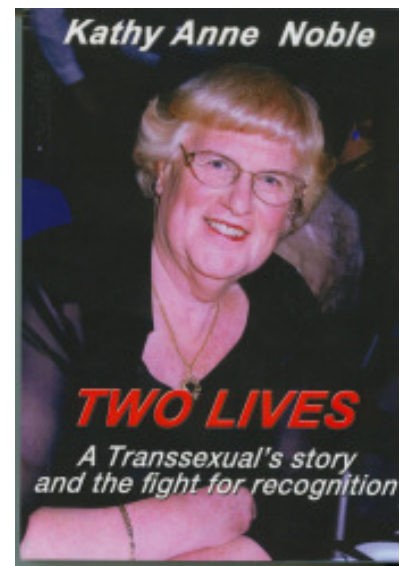
An editor would have noticed, too, that there are

contradictions such as the statement on p.291 that in New Zealand, Andocur is given "from day one of the regime [regimen?]" whereas on p.335 we are told that "I believe Androcure is now banned in New Zealand because of its side effects."

I get the impression that *Two Lives* is a compilation of Kathy's tireless and multitudinous correspondence and policy pieces and has not been looked at holistically with a view to making a series of criticisms and constructive suggestions which might assist the legislators of Australia to create a uniform set of policies true for all States, Territories and the Federal Government.

Kathy makes the sensible point that Federal law should override State law when they are in conflict, but of course this is predicated on the Federal Government doing more than making some token gestures towards the trans community and its problems.

Much space is given to the problem of the married transgender and spouse who wish to remain married after the transgendered partner transitions and goes through gender affirmation surgery. Although the Federal Attorney-General and his minions repeat over and over that a marriage is not affected by one partner going through gender affirmation they gloss over the related problem that the changeling (to use Kathy's preferred term) cannot receive a revised birth certificate and therefore cannot obtain a revised passport without first divorcing (becoming) 'single', and, in the process, having



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both parties perjure themselves by claiming that the marriage has irretrievably broken down when in fact it has not. There are other serious disadvantages to going through a divorce under these circumstances. Inheritance of super-annuation benefits, for instance might be lost to the surviving partner.

Kathy has fought this battle tirelessly, and the letters and emails she reproduces are painful to read, as politicians and their staff bounce back the arguments time and again using the Pontius Pilate approach of washing their hands and pointing at some other administration whom they are happy to blame.

On the personal side we are told little of Kathy's personal life. We hear of the early years growing up in Britain, serving her National Service in the RAF and marrying her teenage sweetheart. Kathy's military training included lining the route for Queen Mary's funeral, being part of the colour guard for Prince Philip (not Phillip, Kathy) when he was elevated to the post of Marshal (not Marshall) of the RAF, and training as a policeman for the Queen's Coronation celebrations. This last task is given the mysterious appellation "Snowdrop" without explanation. I thought snowdropping related to stealing ladies' underwear from clotheslines. Surely the RAF wasn't ... or at least not officially?

Later Kathy was to drift apart from her first love, divorce and move to Australia where she met up with and married her former wife's sister, a procedure which would have been illegal before the Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act of 1907. Before this Act married couples were deemed to be consanguinous and one could not marry a deceased or divorced wife's sister.

Kathy feels that unless people have gone through the Real Life Experience (living in the target

gender role) "they cannot qualify to sit in judgement on us." This is an argument often heard from ethnic groups and feminists, but it flies in the face of logic. If people cannot be qualified by study and observation then every person will need to be judged by his or her peer group, which rapidly disintegrates into farce if you contend that only murderers can judge murderers, embezzlers judge embezzlers, children judge children, and so on.

Lili Elbe had her major operation in 1930, not 1934. She was, in fact, dead by the end of 1931. Similarly, Roberta Cowell's autobiography came out in 1954, not 1951 and

Christine Jorgenson's was published in 1967, not 1952, although there had been a wealth of articles and stories about her from the time she was 'outed' in 1952.

Kathy has a penchant for acronyms and although many of her readers may know what ATSAQ is, many will not, and it is good practice to spell out an acronym the first time it is used.

There is an excellent account of the various stages of hospital preparation and gender affirmation surgery, as experienced by Kathy, and she describes clearly

the procedures common to most of our experience. There is also a useful description of hormonal experience post-op.

Kathy's post-op usage of personal names is interesting as she often writes of Frank (her former self) as a separate person and says he virtually killed himself off so that Kathy could live. "I owe him an awful lot and will always be grateful for what he has done for me. I have wept several times because of his generosity in making Kathy a reality; I will always love him for it." I do not fully



Wedding Photo

comprehend this separation of the former from the current person. I often say of my own transition that there was always a lot of Katherine in John and there will always be a lot of John in Katherine. When Kathy visited her minister of religion during some post-op blues he told her she was grieving for Frank “as you have really killed him off to become Kathy”. I consider this to be psychobabble nonsense, or, as I coarsely scribbled in the margin “Crap!”.

It is greatly to Kathy’s credit that as a result of her own experience she saw the need for post-op. to have social contacts and set about to establish Changeling Aspects, an organisation established to supply social support for post-op. transgenders (or as Kathy would say, transsexuals). There is a real need for this support, particularly if the person concerned has no friends or family to help them through a difficult time. Over the years I have had eight post-op. transgender patients of Peter Haertsch recover in my home, if they were from interstate or overseas, but Kathy has taken a much more disciplined and organised approach and is to be admired for this.

Probably because of my having gone through the mill twelve years or so before Kathy many of my documentation problems went through more easily than hers. There were no border security idiots insisting that we had to travel on a passport which showed our birth gender, even when this was bound to attract unnecessary and unfair attention to us, and for some years I travelled on a British passport (like Kathy I have dual citizenship) which had no line for gender at all. I was also able to have my Certificate of Australian Citizenship amended to my female name after a tedious series of letters which climbed the public service ladder until they reached the Minister (Nick Bolkus), who swept away the bureaucratic obstacles by shining the pure light of Reason and Logic on them. Kathy had a harder time and won through by sheer dogged persistence. I am reminded of the aphorism of a former library colleague of mine who used to say “Constant stoning wears away the drips!” Kathy exercised a similar persistence when dealing with the pettifogging insistence by the British authorities that post-operative transgenders needed to have their

operation attested to by, not just qualified doctors and specialists in gender medicine, but doctors and specialists registered with the General Medical Council in Britain, which meant either that such people would need to be found in Australia (and no list existed with the GMC), or the post-op. would need to travel to Britain to obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate and thence a revised Birth Certificate, or else the British ‘experts’ would need to be brought out to Australia to look at a gathering of post-ops across the length and breadth of our tiny island. Kathy managed to bring some sense into the process and establish a Case by Case system. Incidentally, when a registered GP and a registered gender specialist were identified in Australia, the goalposts were moved to make it mandatory for the medical witnesses to be not only registered in Britain, but also licensed to practise, which meant they had to be living in Britain!

Kathy, incidentally, is a member of WPATH (the World Professional Association for Transgender Health) and sees the need for more rigid protocols to ensure appropriate treatment, as opposed to the existing guidelines, which allow for some flexibility. My own feeling is that there are already too many gatekeepers and I would prefer transgenders to accept more responsibility for their treatment, the corollary being that if they don’t like the end result they should not whinge about it and claim to have been misinformed or virtually forced to accept an inappropriate set of procedures.

There is some inconsistency in terminology in the book, with both SRS (Sex Reassignment Surgery) and GRS (Gender Reassignment Surgery) used.

There is an excellent included paper by Dr Zoë-Jane Playdon on quality of care for trans people in the United Kingdom, (although she does refer to Sir Lancelot Spratt as Sir Lancelot Spry). There is also an excellent pamphlet on the affirmation operation written by, or possibly for, the Sydney surgeon, Peter Haertsch.

Kathy has a tendency to make assumptions and express generalisations which do not bear close examination. Dealing with the problem of support for the partners of transitioning

transgenders she seems to assume that “the pain and anguish of the partners is lost on the Transsexual, who in their exuberance to reach their goal forget about those around them.” I find this an extremely tendentious, and even cruel, statement to make. In my experience the vast majority of intelligent transgenders who transition are torn apart by feelings of guilt and apprehension when they are compelled by *force majeure* to give up the happiness and love they have known in the familial situation. They attend counselling, often moderated by people totally ignorant of the situation, and are heartbroken when every attempt at reconciliation and compromise fails and the marriage fractures. We are not all totally self-absorbed and it is unfair to suggest that we are. Of course there should be support for partners, but that support usually results from an individual’s efforts (as they did in Queensland through the leadership of Kathy) or through the efforts of an established organisation like the NSW Gender Centre.

I also think Kathy is being unfair when she asks a theoretical transgender who has broken the marital tie “Did you explain to her that you were Transsexual when you first met, or before you waltzed her down the aisle?” In many cases the answer is no, but there can be a myriad of reasons for that answer. In many cases we did not know for sure that one day we would give in and seek reassignment. In many cases we believed that marriage would cure this strange longing in us for life as a woman (or man, as the case may be). In some cases we had convinced ourselves we were cross-dressers, and that this was a minor character glitch we could give up when the need came.

Kathy was one of the blessed few whose wife was strong enough, and loving enough, to accept her partner’s need for femininity and live with it. More and more this is becoming the norm. Knowledge that transgender exists, and probably some recognition that it is not a



Kathy and friends at Seahorse Ball, 2002

sexuality, a hobby nor a perversion have helped to reconcile partners into accepting the obsessive needs of their transitioning companions.

In a case I knew personally, where one member of a happy lesbian relationship realised he was FTM, the other agonised for some time before

coming to the conclusion that “Love is where you find it” and helped her partner to transition into the fine man he became. They trans-muted into a ‘normal’ heterosexual couple.

Another interpolated document in *Two Lives* comes from Simon de Voil and provides “A

Commentary on Psych-iatry and the FTM Transsexual Experience”. This essay gives a concise overview of the relationship between psychiatry and transsexuality. de Voil makes several valid points about the shortfalls of psychiatry and talks common sense about the limits of plastic and reconstructive surgery. The difficulties in creating a neo-phallus that looks right, passes urine and can be used for sex are well-known and the resultant reluctance of FTMs to set off down the road of phalloplasty is also widely understood.

Simon de Voil’s piece is followed by an extremely useful overview of the various hormones currently in use. A word of warning ... new hormones are constantly coming into popular use and older ones being retired, so make sure you are being informed on the latest and best. Check with your endocrinologist on the advantages, disadvantages and side-effects of each.

The section on electrolysis is useful but not definitive. There seem to be a number of schools of thought, particularly on the advantages and disadvantages of needle electrolysis v. laser. Ask around. Get the opinions of people who have tried both.

Kathy puts the view that the operation is for ever and that there is no way back. This is not necessarily true. Some people do go back to

their former gender, even if it means living as a neutered individual. And sometimes it does not even mean that. I know an FTM who went back from almost complete conversion to full life as a woman and I have a friend in the States who has gone from male to female to male to female. Anything a human can do, some human will do.

After Peter Haertsch's long essay on the procedures and aftercare following surgery, Kathy gives more information on life after surgical reassignment. I am interested in the comment that urination immediately after surgery can be surprising, to say the least. Because of swelling post-surgery, and the difficulty of locating the urethra accurately due to this swelling, one is likely to, as Kathy puts it "spray everywhere". She talks of the need to clean up whatever missed the pan, but since one is by this time usually urinating sitting down I fail to see how one could miss the pan.

There is an odd statement in a section titled "Five Years Post-Op" where Kathy agonises over whether she is really being accepted or is merely being humoured by people "not wishing to offend my sensibility". Really, Kathy, why on earth does it matter? If you are being treated as a woman, and living as a woman, why concern yourself with hypotheticals? Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, as good old Matt said. (Matthew 6:34). Don't go looking for trouble. It will find you when it wants you. Believe me. And stop saying you killed off your former self. You merely asked for a share of his life and he willingly gave it to you. You still have Frank's memories, skills, beliefs and standards. You will never be without a measure of Frank and he will always be there to support and protect you.

Finch, the apostate transgender, was Alan not Allan.

You say that "Most, after SRS, are very happy with the outcome and go on to lead useful lives within the community at large" p.325. This is an understatement. Stomach banding, to take a popular current elective operation, has a satisfaction level of 60%. A number of studies of gender affirmation surgery taken over a period of thirty years, shows an almost uniform satisfaction rate of 87%. Both, incidentally, are

significantly higher than the satisfaction rate with marriage, which has a failure rate of almost 50%. Maybe people intending to marry should be forced to go through a Real Life Experience of living as if married for one or two years before appropriate gatekeepers say they can or cannot proceed to marry.

In your summation, Kathy, you mention suicides after Sex Re-Assignment Surgery. I don't know if you have had any friends who committed suicide after surgery. I have had three such friends, out of the four close transgender friends of mine who have committed suicide. Seventy-five percent. Yet a recent statistical study showed that the suicide rate after surgery was one half of one per cent compared with a rate of 20% for pre-operative. One must beware personal experience which can cause statistical glitches and anomalies.

On p.345 you say that "As the person who has transitioned has also changed their name and so the original person (Male or Female no longer legally exist), could this mean that the marriage is no longer valid? Could the marriage be considered as dissolved?" This is a very primitive view of the power of names. Our literature abounds with fairy- and folk-tales where people have 'secret' names which give power over the owner. But in our culture, a name is just a label, and legal contracts are not invalidated by relabelling the subject of the contract. Incidentally, while we are on names, you do not mention that one can change one's name by reputation under common law, simply by using the new name until one is known by it. This is what I did, and it cost me only a dollar or so for a Statutory Declaration form witnessed by a JP.

I may have seemed harsh and picky in this review, Kathy, but your book is a rich lode of vital information and your energy and dedication are to be admired by all and, wherever possible, emulated. But next time, use an editor.

Two Lives: a transsexual's story and the fight for recognition by Kathy Anne Noble, Zeus Publications, Burleigh, Qld, 2011, ISBN 978 1 921731 55 6 (pbk) 370pp \$29.95 reviewed by Katherine Cummings

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

The email address for Resources and Polare is:

resources@gendercentre.org.au

NB Please put the word 'Polare' somewhere in the subject line

Community Contacts Cancelled

The Gender Centre regrets that following misuse of the service Community Contacts will no longer be provided. Unfortunately growing reports of predatory actions by some 'contacts' forced us to take this action.

Advertisements of a service nature (e.g. "For Sale", "Accommodation Wanted" or "Accommodation Available") will continue to be published.

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

Aude Chalon

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

aud_mms@hotmai.com

89.3 FM 2GLF

Community Radio

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

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

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

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

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

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

Miss Beverly Buttercup via:

email: *beverlybuttercup@hotmail.com*

Fax: (02) 9605.3252

or write to:

PO Box 3357 Liverpool, NSW 2170

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

email: *queeroutwest@hotmail.com*

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

QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE

The Queensland Gender Centre is run solely by a transsexual 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 email the Queensland Gender Centre. Contact details on the Directory pages.

PLEASE READ THIS!

If you are moving, or changing your email address, please tell us.

Undeliverable copies of Polare waste money that could be used for other services.

The Gender Centre has joined Twitter!!!

For those who don't know, Twitter is an Internet text-based social networking system a bit like SMS. Messages are restricted to 140 characters but if you want to keep up to date daily (or more frequently) with what is going on at the Gender Centre, you can do so on Twitter.



Go to the Internet, and type in www.twitter.com/thegendercentre to see the latest Twitter news. Note that this is one-way information. You can't respond or ask questions on Twitter. If you need further information you will need to phone (02) 9569 2366

or email reception@gendercentre.org.au or resources@gendercentre.org.au.

LEGAL PROBLEMS?

The Inner City Legal Centre will be providing advice sessions for clients of the Gender Centre.

The ICLC can advise in the following areas:

family law | criminal matters | fines | AVOs | victim's compensation | employment | identity documents | police complaints | discrimination | domestic violence | sexual assault | complaints against government | powers of attorney | enduring guardianship | wills | driving offenses | credit and debt | neighbourhood disputes

Dates for 2010 have not been set but sessions will be held monthly. To make an appointment please contact a Gender Centre Staff member on 9569 2366 or email reception@gendercentre.org.au. Bookings are essential

PUBERTY BLOCKERS NOW APPROVED FOR GENDER-VARIANT CHILDREN

It has been revealed that children in Britain as young as twelve, who have been diagnosed as having Gender Identity Disorder, may be allowed puberty-blocking drugs to delay their physical development until they are of an age to make a decision about their future.

Supporters of the procedure say that the “window” prevents the mental and psychological distress caused by maturing of sex organs, growth of facial hair and voice and somatic changes.

Critics claim that this merely prolongs the agony and can prevent people from growing out of their gender ‘confusion’.

Until April 2011 British doctors were not allowed to offer puberty blockers until the late stages of puberty, often when a child was sixteen.

The Tavistock and Portman National Health Service (NHS) Trust, the only specialist clinic in Britain for GID has been given permission from the National Research Ethics Service to prescribe puberty blockers for children from the age of twelve.

To begin, an NHS research project will be undertaken, using a dozen children and teenagers and run by the clinic and the University College London Hospital. They will need full support from their parents, a record of long-standing gender identity issues and the ability to give formal consent to the procedures.

Boys will be prevented from growing facial hair, their voices will not deepen and their larynxes (Adam’s apples) will not develop. Girls will not develop breast and will not menstruate.

The Tavistock and Portman clinic has received 127 GID referrals so far this year. One of the principles of the clinic involves persuading parents not to keep their child’s condition secret.

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CHILD OF SIX DEMANDED SEX CHANGE

Sharon, an English IT manager says that her son Nicki was born male but by the time Nicky was eighteen months old she was showing a preference for everything feminine. By the time she was four she was saying God had made a mistake, “making him a boy”. When he was six he started asking for a sex change.

Soon after this Sharon decided to allow Nicky to attend primary school as a girl and took her to the Tavistock and Portman mental health trust in North London.



By the time Nicky was eight she had grown out her hair and was wearing a blouse and skirt. When she moved to secondary school, however, bullying caused her to become suicidal. For a year and half she

was spat upon, punched and pushed over. She went back to the Tavistock Clinic but was told she could not be helped because she was under sixteen. Sharon took her to an American expert in the field, Dr Norman Spack in Boston who prescribed puberty blockers for her.

Nicky is now seventeen and has had her gender affirmation surgery.

“She holds down a full-time job and has been with her boyfriend for eighteen months and she is gorgeous,” says Sharon. “I am positive she would not be here without the treatment.

AUGUST CENSUS OF AUSTRALIAN POPULATION

An enquiry to the Australian Bureau of Statistics as to how transgenders should record their gender in the Census form resulted in the advice, “Enter your gender as you identify yourself.” Also, provision for transgenders to identify as tg may be possible in the 2016 Census the spokesperson said.

MALTA IGNORES EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Malta is in breach of the human rights of their transgender citizens. Maltese legislation demands sterility and invasive surgery before changing transgenders' documentation yet the necessary medical procedures are not available in Malta. The European Court of Human Rights demands that transgender procedures must be available and that trans health care is included in medical insurance plans.

Simply to change one's name the Maltese government demands psychotherapeutic evaluation by a qualified mental health professional, real life test (living in target gender role), confirmation of outer appearance, hormonal therapy, sex reassignment surgery and permanent infertility. All these demands are in breach of the Yogyakarta Principles.

Malta is also in breach of a petition by a transgendered woman for the right to marry. The Public Registrar has successfully argued in Court that as a result of gender reassignment the subject of the action is neither a man nor a woman and therefore cannot marry.

ATTENTION DRAWN TO RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX REFUGEES

Asylum seekers in Australia may seek protection if they fear for their safety on a number of grounds. A Malaysian transgender was granted asylum recently when she claimed she feared for her life and would probably be forced into sex work if she returned to Malaysia.

At present the only country to protect intersex is South Africa. In Australia courts are likely to see surgical intervention as in the best interests of the child whereas intersex organisations and many others believe the child should make up his or her own mind about intervention, when the time is right.

Australia should take the lead in providing full human rights protection for intersex people and allowing intersex as grounds for asylum to those fleeing homophobic oppression because of their intersex condition, according to Gina Wilson, President of Intersex International Australia.

THE FAMILY COURT ALLOWS TEN-YEAR-OLD TO BLOCK PUBERTY

A ten-year-old boy has been granted permission by the Family Court to commence hormone treatment to block puberty so that he can eventually have gender affirmation and live life as a girl. The Family Court was told the girl, Jamie, has thought of herself as female since she was a toddler. She wore girls' clothes and refused to use the boys' toilets at school.

Jamie was diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder at the age of seven and from 2008 she dressed as a girl and was treated as a girl at home. In 2009 she was moved to a girls' school that accepted her as a girl.

The Court was told it was vital for Jamie to commence puberty blockers before the onset of puberty created physical problems for her as her body developed.

SALLY GOLDNER STARS IN DOCUMENTARY

Sally Goldner, Melbourne transgender rights activist, stand-up comedian, radio host and accountant has made a documentary with film-maker Mark Anderson. Sally says that as a child she had no



Sally Goldner

idea what was going on in her head. In the 1970s, she says, there was very little known about transgender, yet she always wanted to live as a female.

As an adult Sally continued to hear irrelevant view of her 'difference'. Some people thought she

had been abused as a child, others thought she was just eccentric.

She decided to live as a woman and accepted hormone therapy but decided against genital surgery. She claims that discrimination is common and social myths and stereotypes drive high rates of unemployment, homelessness and suicide.

Goldner is part of an attempt to obtain State funding to set up the Zoe Belle Gender Centre to help Victoria's transgender community. The Zoe Belle Centre is named for a transgender activist who died in 2008.

Goldner is pushing for Medicare funding to provide gender reassignment surgery and other transgender procedures. "Sally's Story" screened as part of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival in March 2011.

Australians with haemophilia seek compensation

Australians who caught hep C through contaminated blood transfusions more than twenty years ago are still waiting for financial compensation from the Federal Government. Haemophiliacs rely on blood transfusions to keep them alive and around 1,000 Australians contracted hepC before routine testing of blood products commenced, and they are calling for more support in dealing with the disease.

There are a number of government schemes to help people with out-of-pocket medical expenses but the Haemophilia Foundation reports that many people say these schemes do not cover costs or were not available.

Missing hep C Cases

Nearly 90% of hep C cases in Australia have not received treatment, despite the possibility of a cure, according to a new report.

Only 2% of the 284,000 Australians with hep C receive treatment each year, which exposes the country to substantial future health costs.

The study, by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, found that the low level of treatment was at odds with hep C's status as a curable disease whose treatments are subsidised by the Federal Government.

Pharmacists need support for harm reduction

A recent study shows that pharmacy staff need better training to give information to people who inject drugs.

The research, in *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 2010. (29(4) 364-370) showed that people seeking injecting equipment were more likely to have never received treatment for their drug use and were less likely to have had recent testing for blood-borne viruses than people who only went to needle and syringe programs.

The study found that people who used pharmacies as their source of equipment do so because they were less likely to be under police surveillance.

The Criminal Justice System, hep C and You (or your friend)

Do you know someone affected by the criminal justice system? Do you have a family member who is hep C positive but no one is talking about it. Do you feel you are being judged when you disclose your hep C status? Are you in jail and have questions about hep C? Do you need specific information about hep C and prisons?

All you need to do is ask/ I am Robert Barco, ex-inmate and writer. I will answer your questions and research your topics. I will try to answer all who write in or send emails.

Remember I am here for you. I understand these issues, having experienced them for most of my adult life.

Nurse led model of care for hepatitis

Hep C treatment was once a headache for everyone involved in the prison system. It meant testing, waiting, putting your name on a list, then escorts to the Bay and back - possibly not being seen by anyone - and then doing it all again and again. In the end, if you were lucky, you may have received treatment. That has all changed and the hep C strategy is comprehensive and multi-disciplinary.

Every NSW prison has a clinic capable of organising hep C testing, and eight centres can provide treatment through visiting doctors. On top of this, Justice Health's evolving nurse-led model of care (NLMC) means better access for more prisoners.

Every person coming into prison has a reception health assessment where screening for hep C is voluntary and, at any time during their sentence, prisoners can arrange an appointment and talk to a Public/Sexual Health Nurse (PHSN) about screening and potential treatment. The nurse, who will have had special training in hep C care, will discuss the pros and cons of testing and help to explain what the results mean.

The nurse-led model of care developed by Justice Health is slowly being rolled out to correctional centres in NSW. For people classified to the jails that currently have the

NLMC it means that as a health consumer you are able to access treatment in a way which is quicker and much more comprehensive. The nurse will assess you and he or she is able to liaise with other specialists and doctors without you having to attend, which for inmates means no more of those unwanted escorts to Long Bay just to see a doctor.

Under the nurse-led model, everything required to set up a treatment has been streamlined under this model in terms of waiting lists, appointments etc. It is as simple as the patient putting his or her name down to see the nurse, and the rest is done by the specialist nurse.

At centres that currently have the NLMC, patients do not have to leave - they can be assessed by the nurses, who commence the treatment and monitor the patient while on treatment. The patient doesn't need to see the Visiting Medical Officer at all - the VMO writes the script after discussing the patient's assessment with the nurse.

Some centres will still have a visiting specialist; patients in these centres will be assessed by the nurses, but will also see the specialist (these patients will not be part of the nurse-led model of care). In some cases, a video conference may be used, involving the doctor, patient and nurse.

While the NLMC is only in some jails at the moment, Justice Health plans to roll out the model to many more jails over the next three years.

Depending on their health, some prisoners who are considering hep C treatment will be categorised as needing to see the specialist. The majority of prisoners, though, will not be categorised as needing to see the specialist - which greatly benefits those prisoners at centres where there is no visiting specialist.

Robert Barco, *Hep Review*
pharvey@hep.org.au

Hep Review, PO Box 432, Darlinghurst, NSW, 1300

The material above and on the previous page is derived from the Autumn, March 2011 issue of *Hep Review (Edition 72)*. The NSW Gender Centre expresses its gratitude for access to this material

Gay and Lesbian Counselling

Telephone Counselling:

q General line daily 5.30pm to 10.30pm

Sydney Metro 8594 9596

Other areas of NSW 1800 184 527

q Lesbian line

Monday 6.30pm to 10.30pm

Sydney Metro 8594 9595

Other areas of NSW 1800 144 527

q Face to Face Counselling:

**In partnership with Jansen Newman
Institute (JNI)**

q Counselling session times by arrangement

**q Call JNI (02) 9436 3055 or
GLCS (02) 8594 9500**

Smart Recovery Program - group support

**q In partnership with the SMART
Recovery program and Alcohol and
Drug Information Service (ADIS)**

q Every Monday at 6.00pm

**q Call ADIS on 9361 8000 or
GLCS 8594 9500**

**For further information please contact
Chris Wilson, Training and Volunteer
Co-ordinator,**

(02) 8594 9500

Website: www.glcsnsw.org.au

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, Wednesday or Thursday 10am - 5.00pm.

Outreach service

Available to clients in the inner city area on Tuesday nights from 6.00pm to 2.00 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 - 9569 2366.

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. 9569 2366

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 quarterly magazine *Polare* and a regularly updated website at:

www.gendercentre.org.au

For more information contact the Resource Development worker on Monday or Wednesday 9569 2366

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 95692366

Residential service

Provides semi-supported share accommodation for up to eleven residents who are sixteen or over. Residents can stay for up to twelve 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 9569 2366.

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 9569 2366.

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

coordinator@gendercentre.org.au

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

For after hours counselling contact

Lifeline on 131 114 or the **Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service**

5.30pm-10.30pm seven days on

(02) 8594 9596

1800 105 527

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

2010 - TWENTY10/GLBT YOUTH SUPPORT

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

PO Box 553, Newtown, NSW, 2042

Youth callers needing help:

Sydney local: (02) 8594 9555

Rural NSW : 1800.65.2010

All other callers:

(02) 8594 9550

Fax: (02) 8594 9559

Email: info@2010.org.au

Web page: www.twenty10.org.au

ACON - 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 - ILLAWARRA

47 Kenny Street, Wollongong

PO Box 1073, Wollongong, NSW, 2500

Tel: (02) 4226.1163

Fax: (02) 4226.9838

www.acon.org.au

ACON -MID-NORTH COAST

Shop 3, 146 Gordon St

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Tel: (02) 6584 1163

Fax: (02) 6583 3810

mnc@acon.org.au

POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

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

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 TRANSESTITES)

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 011web

www.bgf.org.au; email

bgf@bgf.org.au

BREASTSCREEN

Phone 132050

CENTRAL TABLELANDS TRANSGENDER INFORMATION SERVICE

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

Operates 9 am - 8pm Mon - Fri

Tel: 0412 700 924

(CSN) COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK

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

Sydney Mon-Fri 8.00am-6.00pm

9 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills

Tel: (02) 9206.2031

Fax: (02) 9206.2092

csn@acon.org.au

PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300

Western Sydney and Blue Mountains

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 9204 2400

Fax: 9891 2088

csn-westsyd@acon.org.au

6 Darcy Rd, Wentworthville, 2145

PO Box 284, Westmead, 2145

Hunter

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4927 6808 Fax 4927 6485

hunter@acon.org.au

129 Maitland Road, Islington, 2296

PO Box 220, Islington, 2296

MacKillop Centre - Hunter

Training and development opportunities for PLWHA

Tel: 4968 8788

Illawarra

Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

Tel: 4226 1163 Fax: 4226 9838

illawarra@acon.org.au

47 Kenny St, Wollongong, 2500

POB 1073, Wollongong, 2500

Mid North Coast

Outreach project: by appointment

Tel: 6584.0943

Fax: 6583.3810

4 Hayward Street, Port Macquarie, 2444

POB 1329, Port Macquarie, 2444

HIV AWARENESS AND 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

FTMAustralia

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

GAY AND LESBIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE OF NSW (GLCS)

A volunteer-based community service providing anonymous and confidential telephone counselling, support, information and referral services for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT) and people in related communities.

Counselling line open daily from 5.30pm - 10.30pm
(02) 8594 9596 (Sydney Metro Area - cost of local call, high for mobiles)
1800 184 527 (free call for regional NSW caller only)

Admin enquiries: (02) 8594 9500 or admin@glcsnsw.org.au
website: www.glcsnsw.org.au

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

KIRKETON 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)Sundays

PO Box 22, Kings Cross, NSW, 2011

Tel: (02) 9360.2766
Fax: (02) 9360.5154

LES GIRLS CROSS-DRESSERS 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

(MCC) METROPOLITAN

MCC Sydney is linked with MCC churches in Australia as part of an international fellowship of Christian churches with a social concern for any who feel excluded by established religious groups. MCC deplors all forms of 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 St, Petersham, 2049
Phone (02) 9569 5122

Fax: (02) 9569 5144

Worship times:

10.00 am and 6.30 pm

office@mccsydney.org

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

MOUNT DRUITT SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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

Ph: (02) 9881 1206

Mon 9.00am-4.00pm

Wed 9.00am-1.00pm

Fri 9.00am-1.00pm

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 and on the second Wednesday from 7pm-8pm

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 USERSAIDS 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 1, 162 Marsden (cnr. George St)

Parramatta 2150

Ph: (02) 9843 3124

Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

Tue 9.00am-1.00pm

Fri 9.00pm-1.00pm

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

103/5 Redfern Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016

(Redfern Community Health Centre, enter via Turner Street)

Tel: (02) 9395 0400

Fax: (02) 9393 0411

RPASEXUALHEALTHCLINIC

provides a free and confidential range of health, counselling and support services

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 people working in the NSW sex industry.

69 Abercrombie Street

Chippendale NSW

PO Box 1354

Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Tel: (02) 9319 4866

Fax: (02) 9310 4262

infoswop@acon.org.au

www.swop.org.au/

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@yahoogroups.com

http://sbn.bi.org

SYDNEY BISEXUAL

PAGANS

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

PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

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

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

SYDNEY WEST HIV/HEP C PREVENTION SERVICE

Needle and syringe program
162 Marsden St, Parramatta, NSW 2150
Ph: (02) 9843 3229
Fax: (02) 9893 7103

TOWN & COUNTRY CENTRE

Drop In Centre - Weekly Coffee Nights - 24 hour ph line - regular social activities - youth services - information, advice and referral - safer sex packs and more! - for bisexual, transgender folks and men who have sex with men
80 Benerembah Street, Griffith
PO Box 2485, Griffith, NSW 2680
Tel: (02) 6964.5524
Fax: (02) 6964.6052
glsg@stealth.com.au

TRANS MASH

For younger Trans people (25 and under). Newcastle area. Contact Judi Butler j.butler@acon.org.au

WOLLONGONG - TRAN

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

WOMENS & GIRLS DROP IN CENTRE

is a safe, friendly drop-in Centre in inner Sydney for women with or without children. Shower, relax, read the paper, get information, referral and advice.

Monday to Friday - 9.30 - 4.30pm
177 Albion Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
Tel: (02) 9360.5388

A.C.T.

AGENDER AGENDA is a non-profit group committed to providing support, education, information and relief to people living with any type of sex or gender related condition (whether symptoms are physical or mental and are attributable to genetic or other origin).

PO Box 4010, Ainslie, ACT, 2602
Ph: 0412 882 855
Fax: (02) 6247 0597

Email: polar@homemail.com.au
AIDS ACTION 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
plwha.act@aidsaction.org.au

SWOP ACT (SEX WORKER OUTREACH PROJECT)

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

Westlund House,
16 Gordon Street, Acton.,
ACT, 2601
GPO Box 229, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Tel: (02) 6247 3443
Fax: (02) 6257 2855
E-mail:
aacswop@aidsaction.org.au

Directory Assistance

Northern Territory

NORTHERN TERRITORY AIDS & HEPATITIS COUNCIL

Incorporating Services and Support For HIV Positive and Hepatitis Positive people.

- Needle Syringe Program
 - Sex Worker Outreach Project
 - Peer Project GLBTI Community Education, Social & Emotional Support
 - ATSI Project - Indigenous Gay Men & Sister Girls
 - Community Education
- Tel: (08) 8941 1711
Freecall: 1800 880 899
www.ntahc.org.au
info@ntahc.org.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 8am-6pm
Email: trans.atsa@bigpond.com
www.atsaq.com
PO Box 212, New Farm, Qld, 4005

BRISBANE GENDER CLINIC

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

Phone (07) 3837 5645
Fax: (07) 3837 5640
Level 1, 270 Roma Street,
Brisbane 4000

CAIRNS SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

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

GOLD COAST SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

A public sexual health clinic with an interest in and experience of transgender medicine. Medical staff, nursing staff, dietician,

psychologist. Referral to speech pathology, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, surgeons available. Consultations free, by appointment.
2019 Gold Coast Highway
PO Bopx 44, Miami, Qld, 4220
Ph: (07) 5576 9033
fax:(07) 5576 9030

QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE

Transsexual semi-supported accommodation available to those who identify as Transgender and who are drug and alcohol free. Accommodation available for six or twelve months.
PO Box 386, Chermside 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: sqwisic@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: sqwisic@sqwisi.org.au

Level 3 Post Office Arcade
Flinders Street, Townsville, Qld, 4871
PO Box 2410, Townsville, Qld, 4810
Ph: 1800 118 021
Fax: (07) 4721 5188
Email: sqwisit@sqwisi.org.au

TRANSBRIDGE

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

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

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

0406 916 788

email: transbridge@mail.com

(SATS) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRANSEXUAL 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

FTM PHALLOPLASTY 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

GENDER AFFIRMATION AND LIBERATION

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

PO Box 245, Preston, VIC, 3072

Tel: (03) 9517 1237

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gaal1>

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 constituted 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

93 Brisbane Street, Northbridge, Perth, WA 6000

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 (93 Brisbane Street., Northbridge Perth 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, male and female workers in the sex industry: PO Box 8054 PBC Northbridge, WA 6849

Tel: 08. 9328 1387

Fax: 08. 9227 9606

South Australia

CARROUSEL CLUB

A non-profit, social group that operates as a support group for persons with gender issues, and provides social outlets. Produces a Club Newsletter every two months. PO Box 721, Marleston SA 5033

Tel: (08) 8411.0874

ccsai@hotmail.com

www.geocities.com/carrousel_2000

CHAMELEONS

Counselling, information and support aimed at minimising the isolation of transgender people in South Australia. PO Box 2603 Kent Town SA 5071

Tel: (08) 8293 3700

Fax: (08) 8293 3900

AH: (08) 8346 2516

DARLING HOUSE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

64 Fullarton Rd Norwood

PO Box 907 Kent Town

South Australia 5071

Tel: (08) 8334 1606

Fax: (08) 363.1046

Freecall: 1800 888 559

SHINE - SEXUAL HEALTH

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

17 Phillips Street, Kensington,

SA. 5068 Tel: (08) 8431 5177

Fax: (08) 8364 2389

PYCIS

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.

TRANSCOMMUNITY WA

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

Contact Lisa on 0427 973 496, email lisasonau@yahoo.com.au

TRANSWEST: THE TRANSGENDER ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (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)

Directory Assistance

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.

AIS SUPPORT GROUP (AUSTRALIA)

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

AUSTRALIAN WOMAN NETWORK

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

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

CHANGELING ASPECTS

A caring national support organisation for Transsexual people, their partners and families. For information, please write or call.
email:knoble@iinet.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

TRUE COLOURS DIVERSITY

True Colours represents young people who experience transsexualism and a network of their parents, families throughout Australia. Whether you are a parent, a family member, a carer, a friend or a young person experiencing the diversity in sexual formation called transsexualism, you have come to a friendly place. TRUE Colours offers mutual support and advocacy for young people with transsexualism and their families. We also offer a parents/caregivers email discussion group.
Web: www.truecolours.org.au
Email: Mail@truecolours.org.au

International

AGENDER NEW ZEALAND

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and family. For a detailed information pack, please write or call.
PO Box 27-560
Wellington New Zealand
Tel: (64) 0800 AGENDER
president@agender.org.nz
www.agender.org.nz

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 68236, Newton, 1145, 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 trans-gendered. Provides trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists and a there is a referral procedure to a choice of other therapists.
The Gender Trust
PO Box 3192, Brighton
BN1 3WR, ENGLAND
http://www3.mistral.co.uk/gentrust/home.htm
gentrust@mistral.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

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

IFGE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

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

IKHLAS

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

ITANZ INTERSEX TRUST

AOTEAROA OF NEW ZEALAND

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

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF AUCKLAND - NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 68 509,
Newton, Auckland,
New Zealand

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF CHRISTCHURCH-NEW ZEALAND

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

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF WELLINGTON - NEW ZEALAND

Provides a confidential service for trannies working in the sex industry.
PO Box 11/412, Manner St
Wellington New Zealand
Tel: (64) 4382-8791
Fax: (64) 4801-5690

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 resources@gendercentre.org.au

Classifieds

FLATMATE wanted to share three-bedroom house in Blackheath, Blue Mountains with one other, a forty-year-old M2F. Near Katoomba, fifteen minute walk to train and shops, off-street parking available. Own room, furnished or unfurnished in furnished house. Large yards in quiet area. Veranda and enclosed courtyard/ barbecue area. Laundry with washer and dryer. Large lounge room and shared bathroom with combine shower/bath. Phone and Broadband Internet services available plus use of computer. Slow combustion fireplace in lounge room. Rent \$135 pw and bond (neg.). Share electricity and water expenses. Share phone and Internet if required. Happy to share food/cooking or separate if preferred.

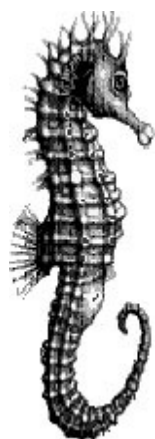
Suit M2F/F2M single person. Jobseeker/ Unemployed/ Pensioner welcome. Looking for long-term flatmate to share and make a home. Sorry, no short-term.

Email:

jessicats@y7mail.com

or phone:

0457 003 062 (ask for Mark)



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.

general manager



- Short or long term contract
- Twenty five hours per week, flexible
- Possible permanent opportunity

The National LGBTI Health Alliance is the peak organisation representing organisations and individuals that work to improve the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse people (LGBTI).

The General Manager will support the Board in their strategic development of the organisation and be the key point of contact for members. The role is responsible for operational activities including the delivery of programs and projects, staff supervision, finance, administration, communication, website maintenance and development of the annual report.

You're currently employed or returning to work in a senior role in a community focused organisation. You have experience in project and financial management, possess strong relationship management skills and are committed to the health and wellbeing of the LGBTI community.

If you share the vision of healthy and resilient LGBTI people and communities fully participating in a socially inclusive Australian society please contact Richard Green or Annie Barker on (02) 8243 0570 or email your application to cv@ngorecruitment.com quoting ref #30623.



Blaise 146787

To arrange for free counselling at the Gender Centre please contact us on 9569 2366. Counselling is available from Monday to Thursday.

NSW Seahorse Society

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW INC
PO BOX 2193 BORONIA PARK, NSW 2111

Call on **0423.125.860** and our website is:
www.seahorsesoc.org
Email: crossdress@seahorsesoc.org
Membership enquiries, change of details etc. contact Membership Secretary,
PO Box 6179, West Gosford, NSW, 2250
"crossdress with dignity"