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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 September 2011

The Manager's Report

Hi, all,

A long-standing program is being reviewed and redesigned to improve service to Gender Centre clientele. Wednesday night drop-ins have been part of the Gender Centre for many years, but times change and there is now a general feeling that there may be better ways for the Gender Centre to use its resources.

The original intention for the drop-in was to provide a first-access experience for transgenders new to their transgendered situation, in a safe place where they could meet others in the informal atmosphere of a shared meal, and that as these transgenders gained confidence they could move on.

Over the years the character of the drop-ins has changed and recently we have been forced to reconsider the situation in the light of complaints received from some clients concerning the behaviour of others, and following the development of a situation where some users of the service criticise the quality of the free meals they are given, and feel that they are entitled to receive better.

It should be understood that the Centre has never been funded for drop-ins. Much of the food comes as a charitable donation from OzHarvest, but this in itself means that the quality of the food changes from week to week and is unpredictable. Often the meal is planned on the Wednesday on which it is given, following the weekly OzHarvest drop-off.

Drop-ins are also expensive from a staffing point of view. There are never fewer than two Gender Centre staff involved and at times it has been necessary to roster as many as four to handle the hospitality and provide security. There is a general feeling that the resources devoted to our drop-in meals are reducing our capacity to provide other valuable services elsewhere.

It is our intention to provide informational forums with guest speakers in place of the less-structured drop-ins, but these will depend on the availability of suitable speakers, and the necessary lead-time to publicise these events in order to attract a large enough group to justify speakers giving us their time. We intend to ask professionals (endocrinologists, psychiatrists,

surgeons, lawyers, police, sociologists) to share their knowledge with us, and answer your questions.

Help us to make the new system work to your advantage.

Phinn

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



It seems that, almost without noticing it, we have recently passed one of those significant change points referred to by those who understand such terms as a 'quantum leap', (defined by my faithful Macquarie Dictionary as "one of the discrete

quantities of energy or momentum of an atomic system which are characteristic of the quantum theory"). So a quantum leap is a leap typical of the quantum theory. Very helpful.

As I understand it, (and I hope you do, too), this means that developments have been occurring out of sight, in the background, or at a level too small to be noticed until suddenly there is a perceptible jump forward and the small changes aggregate until they become visible and significant, or they come out from behind the curtain, where committees have been labouring to reach a consensus for action, in order to take a theatrical bow.

This has been one of those time periods. Not only has the Transgender Anti-Violence Project been launched after many months of discussion and negotiation, but on the Australian and world stage there have been significant advances towards the rights of same-sex couples to enter into marriage contracts, and an Australian woman with a trans-history has been given a passport in her feminine persona without having to go through surgical affirmation procedures in order to satisfy the bureaucrats. This demand for surgery by bureaucracy has never been a demand for confirmation that the person is now a male or female following surgery, but rather that they are no longer a female or male ... in other words that one of the factors that goes toward making us human has been modified or eliminated. If medical science had progressed far enough for transwomen to give birth, or for transmen to inseminate women, then there would be little to argue against, but as matters stand, we are talking of forced sterilisation as the price of acceptance by bureaucracy of gender revision (or affirmation).

These quantum leaps are all very significant and should be appreciated by the transgender (and other sections of the GLBTI alphabet soup) for what they are.

To deal with the TAVP first. This co-operative venture between the City of Sydney Council, the NSW Police Force, the Inner City Legal Centre and the NSW Gender Centre has hit the ground running.

The aims of the Project; to gather reports of anti-transgender violence, to keep statistics and to provide legal and moral support for victims of transgender violence, are already showing results. The visible support from the police, in particular, is encouraging more victims to come forward and assist the police in stamping out this violence. The gathering of statistics will also be a valuable resource in making the case for better protection of the transgender community and, if properly publicised, may encourage more acceptance of transgenders in the broader community. In the past we have been forced to rely on anecdotal evidence, which was compelling in its uniformity but difficult to use in persuading legislators and administrators to their support in creating new laws and new ways to deal with targeted violence and hate crimes.

The cover of this issue of *Polare* carries a smaller version of the poster which is being widely disseminated throughout New South Wales. Copies have appeared in bus shelters, on trans-friendly organisations' notice boards and in every police station in New South Wales.

I hope that some of the covers of this issue will be photocopied or simply removed from the magazine and used as mini-posters in schools, universities and any other organisation interested in furthering the safety of transgenders against mindless bullying and violence. Those who receive *Polare* as an emailed pdf will be at an advantage in being able to print off the cover without defacing their copies of *Polare*. They can have their cake and photocopy it, too.

On the same-sex marriage front we have the Labor Party organisations of Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia passing motions supporting same-sex marriage and

overseas we have in the last few days seen the State of New York join seven smaller American States that have voted to pass enabling legislation for same-sex marriage. What this will do for DOMA (the American Defence of Marriage Act, one of Bill Clinton's less creditable pieces of legislation, latterly supported by the minions of the mindless George W) I do not know, but I hope it will see DOMA relegated to that festering scrap heap where all discriminatory legislation should eventually find itself. We can also look forward to Federal action (the Australian Marriage Act is a Federal Act) following the National Conference of the ALP at the end of 2011.

I know that the transgender view of same-sex marriage is slightly different from that of many in the LGB segment of the population in that most LGB supporters of same-sex marriage see it as legislation enabling people who are currently not allowed to marry, to do so. For many transgenders the passing of same-sex marriage legislation would enable a couple who are already married to remain married, following the official transition of one partner or the other to their innate gender. At present the couple *can* remain married, but only if the transitioned partner is prepared to remain a member of his/her original gender as far as bureaucracy and documentation are concerned.

Of course the more conventional reason for wanting equal marriage rights is also valid for transgenders. It is quite possible that an unmarried MTF may wish to marry a woman, whether the object of her desire is a womyn born womyn (sic) or another MTF, and an unmarried FTM may wish to marry a man.

And finally, the other big win for transgenders who want sensible documentation, was the account in the "Scavenger" by Marcelle, the ACT transgender who refused to accept mindless denial of her right to a passport that recorded the person she is, rather than the person her outdated documentation claimed she was. Marcelle's story appears on p.16 and tells

of her seven month confrontation with the Passport Office over her right to have a passport in her female persona without needing to have gone through genital surgery. Overseas travel is a necessary part of Marcelle's work, and she sensibly refused to travel on the almost useless Document of Identity which often draws unwelcome attention to the person using it, and

"when a passport applicant presents ... certification from an attending medical physician ... the passport will reflect the new gender" [US State Department directive]

does not even guarantee the right to re-enter Australia. Marcelle is to be congratulated for setting a new precedent to add to those of

Stephanie Imbruglia and Grace Abrahams. It is surely time for the Passport Office to set up a working party with transgender representation to sort out the necessary guidelines in order to provide travel documents that will satisfactorily and securely identify an individual without infringing his/her privacy and will not negate the right to self-determined gender identity.

Talking of the right to self-determination of gender identity, the Veterans Affairs Department in the United States has recently issued a directive, allowing transgendered veterans to determine their own gender identity, and have this recorded in their official records. The directive also states that transgender veterans will have their hormonal therapies and mental health treatments paid for as well as pre-and post-operative care. They are to be addressed by their self-identified name and the appropriate pronoun, and will be assigned hospital rooms, restrooms or other gender-specific accommodation as indicated by their self-determined gender. Sadly, the directive does not cover surgical gender affirmation procedures, but that may be a step for the future.

And yet another positive example from the United States. The State Department has announced that from June 10, 2011 passports will be issued to transgenders showing their innate gender, whether or not they have had affirming surgery. To quote the directive, "...when a

passport applicant presents a certification from an attending medical physician that the applicant has undergone appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition, the passport will reflect the new gender”.

The new policy is based on the standards of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and these have been recognised by the American Medical Association as being authoritative. In addition “it is also possible for a person to obtain a limited-validity passport [in the new gender] if the physician’s statement shows the applicant is in the process of gender transition. No additional medical records are required.”

Well done, WPATH and the US State Department. Is anyone in Canberra listening?

Katherine



Q&A

Q: I am currently transitioning MTF and have had extensive laser hair removal with very pleasing results. As you know, the cost of ongoing treatment are very high and in the event that some or all of these costs might be claimable through the tax system then I would like to pursue this course of action.

Given you were successful in gaining these costs as a tax deduction, are you able to provide me with details on how you managed to do this? I have contacted the ATO but they want all my personal details before providing an interpretation. I would prefer to keep things confidential.

A: I simply put in a claim year after year for my electrolysis and year after year the ATO would knock it back. Then I would write a letter pointing out that to a transgender the process is therapeutic, not cosmetic, just as a woman suffering from alopecia buys a wig as necessary therapy, not as a glamour accessory. After five years they agreed with me and backpaid me for the previous five years. I don’t think you should mind giving the ATO your details. They are bound by strict rules of confidentiality. KC

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Issue Eighty-Eight Mel's story; Life can be beautiful, Life can be hell

My name is Mel. I am a male-to-female transgender in my mid-thirties. I want to believe that life is beautiful, but as I become older I realise, more strongly each day, that it is not. Life is full of lies and pain.

Every morning I wake to my routine, coffee, breakfast, life. I follow a routine but I can't find the purpose of my routine. What is my reason to live? I ask myself this every day and I never find an answer.

When I was eighteen I lived in Osaka in Japan and worked in a trans club. They called us 'ogama' (transgenders). I learned how to use make-up, how to dance, how to drink and how to make men happy to spend their money on me. I learned the night life. I was young and I couldn't see how shallow and pointless it all was.

I didn't know what my life could or should be.

I never miss those times. I can't handle that kind of existence any more, but at least in Osaka there were many places for us to go. In Sydney there is only one, the Taxi Club. Or I could mix with the straight guys and girls and pretend to be one of them. But I don't.

Part of the reason I stopped going out is that for the past two and a half years I have been in prison, a maximum security men's prison. It was a dreadful experience which has left wounds I do not think will ever heal.

In the male jail I went through extra punishment, physically, mentally, emotionally. I didn't expect it to be easy but I didn't expect to be raped more than twenty times.

I didn't expect the physical as well as the sexual violence. I was terrified most of the time and only exhaustion brought me sleep.

I'm not asking for sympathy. I don't need sympathy. My ordeal was real, and it lasted for thirty months, day and night. Nobody could protect me and nobody can protect me from my memories.

Even now I relive my memories every day and I have nightmares every night.

I have been told that God gives us all a different size bowl of pain. Some people are lucky to have a small bowl. I think God must think me very strong to give me such a big one.

My life is not over. I will live every day and lately my life has become a little better than before. I will try to forget my life in prison and the people who sent me there.

But I will not forget anything until I have written my book about prison life and how it changed my world.

I will keep looking for work and hoping for a chance to live well.

And I still want to believe that life is beautiful...



Hi, Everyone,

I am a transgender, and a grad. student in experimental psychology at Towson University (Maryland, USA). I am conducting research on thoughts about gender identity for my Master's thesis and am recruiting people for an online survey. To participate you must be over 18 and identify as transgender.

The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete and asks you to rate how you think about certain things. Please go to the link below and feel free to pass this information along to any friends who may be interested. The study has been approved by Towson University's Institution Review Board for the protection of human participants.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/GenderIdentitySurvey

Gay and Lesbian Counselling

Telephone Counselling:

- ❑ General line daily 5.30pm to 9.30pm
Sydney Metro 8594 9596
Other areas of NSW 1800 184 527

- ❑ Lesbian line
Monday 5.30pm to 9.30pm
Sydney Metro 8594 9595
Other areas of NSW 1800 144 527

GLCS also offers face-to-face support groups including:

- Talking it out - Men's Discussion Group
- Women's Coming Out Group
- SMART Recovery Program
- And other groups to be announced soon.

For further information please contact GLCS Administration on:

(02) 8594 9500

Or via the website:

Website: www.glcsnsw.org.au

Or by mail:

PO Box 823, Newtown, NSW, 2042

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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, Inc. is both a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and an incorporated association and is committed to developing and providing services and activities that enhance the ability of people who are transgender or gender-questioning to make informed choices.

The Gender Centre offers a wide range of services to people that are exploring their gender, and to their partners, family members and friends. We are an accommodation and counselling service for our gender-questioning clients from the age of sixteen and above and we act as an education, support, training and referral source to other organisations and service providers.

The Gender Centre, based in Petersham, NSW, is committed to educating the New South Wales public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

Roles and Functions

Our Role in the Community

Transgender people are among the most marginalised in the community. They face many issues, including high rates of homelessness, unemployment, social isolation, prejudice and discrimination, family rejection and mental health issues.

With gender identity being a fundamentally different concept from sexual orientation, groups within the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities have fallen short of addressing the issues faced by transgender people and others who are gender-questioning. The Gender Centre has undertaken to address these issues and to educate those in the wider community about the needs, concerns and interests of people who are exploring their gender.

The Gender Centre is not, however, a medical centre and we do not provide medical documents nor medical care, and cannot make referrals for medical services. We can provide information regarding health care service providers for our clients to access. We do not provide recommendations for individual

service providers but try to supply up to three possible choices.

The Gender Centre also offers training, support and workshops to employers, service providers, students and other people interested in gender issues.

The Functions We Perform

The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities that help people with gender issues to make informed choices. We are committed to assisting clients to reach their full personal potential through the provision of psychological counselling services and other programs. We are committed to achieving these aims with fairness and integrity.

The Gender Centre provides advocacy support for transgender and gender-questioning people to help facilitate effective outcomes. The most common advocacy support provided is in dealings with the police, when reporting a crime or being questioned in relation to a criminal matter, with the Department of Housing to prevent evictions, with Centrelink to establish payment of correct entitlements, with Aged Care Services to provide suitable supported care options and disability support programs and to acquire suitable appliances and equipment for independent living.

We aim to provide high quality counselling that acknowledges human rights and ensures respect, dignity and confidentiality. It is of particular concern to remove barriers to clients' achievements which may result from their gender, age, cultural and national background, socio-economic background or disability.

Our residential service provides temporary accommodation in a safe and supportive environment to transgenders who are homeless, distressed or otherwise in need of accommodation. Case Management is also an integral part of our residential program and is provided to all residents in refuge accommodation to assist these clients to move through the refuge and into independent living. A case management service is also provided to community clients.

The Gender Centre's Outreach Service provides specialised case management and outreach to

transgender people confined to hospital, correctional facilities within NSW, to all courts within the greater metropolitan area and to all transgender street-based sex workers in the metropolitan area of Sydney. The outreach education officer provides referrals to specialist medical, HIV/AIDS, education, legal, welfare, housing and other community services.

We also offer our gender-questioning clients, who are able to access the Centre, a service that includes drop-ins, workshops, support groups, outings and social events, organised at intervals throughout the year.

The Gender Centre produces a range of print and online resources relevant to our clients and other service providers. Information packages (kits), fact sheets and other printed materials including the quarterly magazine *Polare*. As part of the resources provided by the Centre we have a library with an array of books and audio-visual material relevant to gender-questioning and transgender people. Books are available for loan but audio-visual materials must be viewed in-house, by appointment. There is no charge for library loans or screenings.

Management Structure

As an incorporated association our constitution is bound by legislation under the Associations Incorporation Act.

Our Management Committee is constituted in the terms of the Act and the organisation in general, including the Management Committee functions as provided by the Act and Regulations. The Constitution and Rules of the organisation comprise the Model Rules provided in the Regulations, and these provide clear statements of structure, election and conduct of office bearers and committee, rights and responsibilities, and provides the delegation of day-to-day managerial matters to the General Manager by the Management Committee.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is primarily responsible for the management of the affairs of the Gender Centre, including financial management and accountability, funding agreements and contracts, administration and accountability in matters relating to

incorporation, internal operational policy development and implementation, ensuring adherence to legislation and other binding rules and regulations as well as staff employment and supervision.

Staff

The Gender Centre is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EEO) employer and employs both full-time and part-time staff. Position titles and duties vary slightly from time to time but the service currently employs staff in the following positions: Manager, Administration Officer, Counsellor, Receptionist, Residential Case Worker, Community Case Worker, Outreach Education Officer and Resource and Information Officer.

Positions occasionally become available, if you are interested please check the Positions Vacant page on our website for further details (www.gendercentre.org.au).

Funding

The Gender Centre Inc. is funded in part by the NSW Department of Human Services, Community Services under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) and by Sydney South West Area Health Service. We also periodically apply for government grants for specific projects, receive the occasional donation and hold occasional fundraisers.

History

Australian Transsexual Association

In the early 1980s, a small band of transgenders founded the Australian Transsexual Association (ATA) with the aim of supporting transgenders by advocating for legal and social changes. A member of this group, Roberta Perkins, who had earlier completed and honours thesis about transgenders, approached Reverend Bill Crews of the Wayside Chapel Crisis Centre to ask if he would allow the use of the chapel as a regular meeting place offering support to the MTF transgenders of Kings Cross.

After consultation between Reverend Bill Crews, Reverend Ted Noffs and Roberta Perkins, regular weekly support meetings for transgenders commenced.

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Many of the sex workers of Kings Cross, from Darlinghurst Road to William Street were vulnerable to assaults, robberies, rape and harassment. Problems of increased dependence on prescription and illicit drugs were also an issue. Often drugs were a means of managing a multitude of issues for a transgender, such as limited employment opportunities, lack of secure housing, verbal and physical abuse, violence etc. These negative experiences tended to reduce the individual's already low self-esteem.

Other issues of concern were the frequent eviction of transgenders and discriminatory treatment by landlords and some service providers.

In July 1983, Roberta Perkins met with Frank Walker, State Minister for Youth and Community Services, after he had read her recently published book, *The Drag Queen Scene*, based on a study she had undertaken on the transgender subculture in Kings Cross.

During this time, the media had also become involved in the issues of transgenders and had produced a documentary movie titled "Man Into Woman". This film also highlighted the plight of transgender people in Sydney, particularly in Kings Cross. Public awareness of the issues faced by transgenders was on the rise.

What disturbed Walker about Roberta's book was the semi-nomadic lives that young transgenders experienced, forced from their apartments by landlords and unable to obtain overnight shelter in either men's or women's refuges. The problem of homelessness was significant and providing transgenders with a safe refuge was crucial.

Walker's words have never left Roberta's memory: Roberta, we have got to find them a place where they can lay their heads at night.

Roberta made a submission for funding to open a refuge for transgenders. Frank Walker approved the plan and two months later a cheque arrived made out to Roberta and a

house was provided as a refuge for transgenders. In October 1983 the doors opened at 75 Morgan Street, Petersham and its twelve bed-spaces (two bunk beds in each of three bedrooms) were filled immediately.

On 14 December 1983 Frank Walker officially opened Tiresias House.

Tiresias House

The opening of Tiresias House was the ATA's proudest moment. The name, Tiresias House was decided on in honour of the character in Greek mythology whose sex was changed from male to female by Athena, as a punishment.

The premises at Morgan Street was owned by the Department of Main Roads, and became the

first government-funded service specifically for transgenders in Australia.

The first group of residents consisted of young transgenders who had been traumatised by being thrown out of their parental homes, or had drifted around Kings Cross seeking identity roots, but before long Tiresias House was bursting at the seams and had to increase the available bed spaces to sixteen by turning the lounge into a fourth bedroom, in order to cope with the demand from prospective residents.



Frank Walker, NSW Minister for Youth and Community Services, who, in 1983, made the establishment of Tiresias House (which became the Gender Centre) possible and continued to support its progress.

Soon after, Frank Walker's department provided a second house located in Ashfield and a third house was soon provided in Haberfield.

By mid-1984 a new group was seeking accommodation. These were transgenders who had spent time in jail and were on parole. Most of them had worked on the streets to support a heavy addiction. Tiresias House was registered

as a halfway house for their benefit but the mix of the street-wise with the earlier group of naive middle class residents proved to be a disaster.

Walker's department once more came to the rescue by providing a fourth house alongside Petersham railway station. These premises became the official halfway house complete with a detoxification unit and resident nurse.

By 1993, DOCS and the NSW Department of Health entered into a joint funding agreement. This meant that Tiresias House was funded to provide services to minimise the effects of HIV/AIDS on the transgender community. These services included Outreach and Community Worker position. At this time, Tiresias House was incorporated and renamed the Gender Centre Inc., to reflect the change in services and service philosophy.

The Gender Centre, Inc.

Rather than simply targeting young transgenders the service began to target people exploring their gender, which included people who identified as transgender, as well as cross-dressers and anyone else experiencing gender issues, problems or difficulties relating to the gender assigned to them at birth.

The introduction of amendments to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act in 1996 recognised the legal existence of transgenders. The term transgender became the term used in place of "people with gender issues" which had been used to identify the target group served by the Gender Centre.

By 1997, many links had been formed with both the public and private sectors. Training among employers and employees began to result in easing the path of transgenders in maintaining their employment during gender transition.

The Gender Centre remains committed to the support and well-being of transgender people, employing eight staff and housing up to fifteen residents at any one time, in three refuges and four exit houses.

Summary of Services Provided

The Gender Centre provides **Counselling** to residential clients, partners, family members and friends of people with gender issues at no cost.

The counselling service also provides support and education to school counsellors as well as counsellors in rural areas.

The Gender Centre's **Residential Program** can house up to eleven residents (sixteen years of age or over) in three semi-supported refuge houses. Residents can stay for up to twelve months and are supported as they move towards independent living. In addition, the **Exit House Program** provides semi-supported accommodation for six clients (sixteen years of age or over) in partnership with the Women's Housing Company in self-contained units. Residents can stay for up to twelve months and are supported to move towards independent living.

Intensive Case Management is provided for those in Gender Centre housing as well as the Gender Centre Exit Housing Program. Intensive case management is also provided to all community clients accessing the Gender Centre within the borders of New South Wales as well as co/case management with other service providers.

The Gender Centre provides **advocacy** support for transgender and gender questioning people to help facilitate effective outcomes. We also offer **Training**, support and workshops to employers, service providers and other people interested in gender issues.

We facilitate **Workshops** for residential and non-residential clients of the Gender Centre. These may include recreational and general interest courses, employment, work skills development training, health, nutrition, cooking and living skills courses, as well as stand-alone nights when guest speakers present mini-forums on current issues relating to the lives of transgender people living in New South Wales.

Outreach is available to clients confined to their homes or in hospital in the inner and outer city areas from Monday to Friday. **Night Outreach** is also available to street-based sex workers and private parlours in the inner city and surrounding areas on Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm to midnight. **Jail Outreach** is available to all transgender and gender questioning clients in correctional centres

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within the borders of New South Wales (all Gender Centre staff are Authorised Visitors), and **Court and Cell Outreach** is available to all transgender and gender questioning clients within the inner city and surrounding areas.

The Gender Centre produces a range of **Print and Online Resources** on HIV/AIDS, medical and other information relevant to our clients and their service providers. Information packages (kits), fact-sheets and other printed materials including the quarterly magazine *Polare*. There is also a library containing books that may be borrowed and audio visual materials that may be viewed in the Centre.

Client Confidentiality

The Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000, which amends the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988, sets out your rights and the Gender Centre's responsibilities relating to any personal information held about you as an individual who used the Gender Centre's services.

The Gender Centre maintains a record of each resident, community client and others accessing the Gender Centre either in person, by telephone or email. The Gender Centre Inc. will collect only the information necessary to provide you

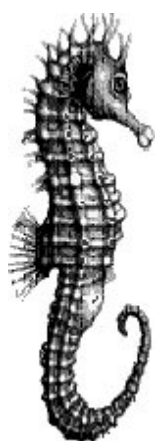
with the highest standard of service.

This information is recorded so that a clear record of the client's needs is maintained over time so that staff can continue to work effectively with clients who present for counselling or other services on a number of occasions with a number of different workers. In this way we can maintain knowledge of the range of issues affecting clients of our service, staff can gain a view of the overall progress of the client or resident through the counselling or case management process and so that accountability and consistency is maintained.

Information about you will not be used in any way without your consent or other than for the reasons for which it was collected.

The Gender Centre undertakes to ensure that all personal information is kept in a secure place and only staff have access to your information and only in performance of their duties in provision of service. The Gender Centre will provide you with access to personal information it holds about you, on request.

Wherever practicable and lawful, the Gender Centre will provide clients with the option of interacting with the Centre anonymously.



Seahorse Society Of NSW

40th Anniversary Ball

Yes, it's on again ... the annual Seahorse Society Ball,

Saturday 20th August 2011

Six hours of wining, dining, dancing and floor show.

This is a night for Everyone to come together, party, relax and enjoy themselves and each other's company.

For more information, visit the Seahorse website at www.seahorsesoc.org \or phone the society on 0423 125 860

Bookings are essential



"Parents who are transgender" working group meets on the first Saturday of each month. 10am to noon.

2 July, 6 August, 3 September

A light luncheon will be provided. Contact Liz or Anthony on 9569 2366

Everyone has a right to feel safe: This theme is heard in all forms of media and expressed by all members of society. It is a fair and reasonable expectation... but... the issue of violence continue. It is an experience that many (in fact almost all) of the people who come to the Gender Centre have encountered. The TAVP (Transgender Anti Violence Project) is one strategy in place to try and engage people from across the wider community in order to raise awareness and implement strategies to address violence.

All experiences of violence are relevant to the program and support and reporting are key aspects of the initiative. Training of the NSW police force is another key aspect and to date two training events have occurred as part of ongoing police training. This means that at least 50 police officers have been exposed to very specific training in responding to experiences of transgender violence within three months. It is hoped that through this training the Trans community feels safer and more secure in their willingness to report incidents of violence.

One of the areas of violence that people tend to ignore or not consider as worthy of reporting is that of violence in the workplace. Bullying and harassment in the workplace is as unacceptable as a physical assault that occurs on the street. It is unlawful and there are mechanisms in place that afford a victim the opportunity to seek resolutions that allow them to work in a safe environment. Raising the issue of workplace violence with your employer is often a challenge that people cannot meet alone. Through reporting to the TAVP a worker from the Gender Centre may be able to assist you with raising the issues and incidents in the workplace and seek out solutions. The incident does not need to be reported to the police for assistance to be made available. But the supports are accessible via the reporting mechanism alone. In reporting these incidents of workplace violence it allows data also to be collected that shows the nature of the violence people are experiencing in the workplace. From this data interventions, strategies and early intervention systems can be developed to support workplaces in the wider community become more Trans aware and supportive.

Training and the Gender Centre.

One of the services that the Gender Centre offers is that of training. This training is an important aspect of the centres initiatives as it provides a window into understanding and supporting transgender people across wider society. The past year has seen training be provided to a range of employers who have sought support to allow for a person to transition smoothly in their workplace and stay an effective employee. Other training has included schools and other institutions such as Victoria department of corrections and sexual health clinics. What has been positive in all of the training has been the openness of participants to understand and become aware and supportive of transgender people. This change in peoples level of acceptance has been heartening and leads to a belief that in the future there will be a greater acceptance for Trans people in society

Information update

Feedback from a few clients recently has drawn my attention that some people do not have access to the Internet and as such are unable to stay up to date with any of the groups or events that are happening at the Gender Centre. To that end a mail out list is being developed that allows the Centre staff to post out every three months an update of the happenings at the Centre. To be a part of this mail out list, please contact Rusty at the front desk on 95692366 to register your details. The first mail out will be for the events occurring from the 1st September 2011 and this calendar will be posted to all recipients by mid August.

Central Coast Transgender Support

The CCTS is a totally free and unfunded service to all with gender issues. It offers guidance to all who are contemplating commencement of the medical and psychological requirements that are involved in full MTF transition under the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care.

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

CCTGS operates Monday to Saturday 10am-10pm

0404 054 000 Email: smh101@exemail.com.au

**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, and the
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 will be held on
27 June, starting at 3.00pm.***

***Suggestions for guest speakers for
future meetings will be welcomed.***


Katherine Cummings, Convenor

**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**



A.I. Electrology.
A.A.B.Th. CIDESCO. ITEC (France)
211 Wyee Rd Wyee 2259. Tel: (02) 43572221.
Email: aie101@bigpond.net.au
Website: www.aielectrology.com.au

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Midmark M9 Autoclave Sterilisation used in this salon.

Justice of the Peace on site for your assistance

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

Subsidised Rates apply for anyone undergoing the Gender Reassignment

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

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

The Counsellor's Column by Anthony Carlino



Anthony Carlino

The Value of Support and Community.

During my training a number of years ago, I was part of a group and invited to participate in a guided process using our imagination. While closing our eyes, the facilitator encouraged us to imagine a time in human history from

the past. A time when there were fewer walls between people. A time when human beings gathered food and ate collectively, families slept at night in the same room together – what you did, who you were, your qualities were more visible to others. The troubles you carried were much harder to hide. The moments of personal triumph were there for others to celebrate. Peoples lives were shared with one another.

Using our imagination, we moved through the time of industrialisation and the notion of private property. As more buildings went up, so did the number of walls. I started to know less of you. Your house was your house, your food was your food.

People began to talk to each other less and less about who they are and their experience of the world. Community became less figural, and the notion of the individual moved to the fore.

What struck me during this process as I imagined living in different periods of human history was that the closer we got to the modern age the greater the sense of isolation I felt. From a time when I felt supported by those around me because we knew one another, we progressed to today where our numbers are far greater, but our sense of connection has in many areas greatly diminished. Where once my sadness and distress was more likely to be shared with others, the chances of this connection is far less. We are often encouraged to fear those we do not know, to hold privacy above openness and not risk

showing our humanness to others. Human beings are more isolated from one another on this level than any other time in history.

It does not surprise me then, nor to those who understand the value of community and support, that Depression has been identified by the World Health Organisation as one of the leading causes of disability on the planet and affects 121 million people worldwide.¹

In a world where we are so often encouraged to do things on our own, it can be so hard to reach out for support and to talk to others about what is happening for us. This difficulty can be further compounded when we have received the message, covertly or overtly, that sadness and tears are a sign of weakness. The tragedy in all of this is that we are encouraged to place the expression of very human and important emotions in a box that we keep to ourselves. We are asked to be less human.



Within this dynamic, where intimacy and openness are not supported, there can be shame experienced in seeking support. I “should” be independent. I “should not” be weak. These external messages and others just like them we take on as our own and in turn, give our inner-critic free reign to criticise ourselves if we break them.

When we take the risk to try something different, to reach out and be vulnerable in the presence of another, we potentially learn another way of being in the world. For some of us, this support can come from family, friends and loved ones. It can also be experienced through the development of a trusting relationship in counselling. We can learn that our pain and sadness is not something to be ashamed of but rather, an important part of being human. No emotion is good or bad. Emotions simply are what they are, and their expression plays a hugely important role in our sense of well-being.

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

A passport identifies who a person is, not who they used to be ... by Marcelle

Issue Eighty-Eight

An Australian transsexual woman has won the right to a full, ten-year passport in her transitioned identity, without the need for undergoing sex realignment surgery first. She shares the story of her legal battle with the Australian Passport Office.

11 June 2011

My name is Marcelle. Just last week after seven long months I received my updated Australian passport indicating my true gender identity on my passport as female and valid for the full ten years. I am a transsexual woman who transitioned full time in late September 2010 but have not had sex realignment surgery.

I managed to achieve this bureaucratic change as an individual, but I didn't achieve it alone. What's important and why I succeeded was that I had assistance from a variety of areas, some direct, some indirect. More importantly I was able successfully to expand on prior cases, fought and won by a large number of others in the transsexual community. I was able to capitalise on their hard work and without them I would not have succeeded.

In November 2010, after transitioning full time for just on one month, I consulted with my sex and gender therapist about how I could adjust my passport as I was required to travel overseas for business.

After receiving a letter from her indicating my change, I put together two statutory declarations, one from my business partner indicating my change and that I was accepted by all our customers, and the other from myself indicating I was indeed transitioned full time. I then arranged for an appointment with the Passport Office to work with them to make the change.

I was warned ahead of time there might be issues and there were.

I live in Canberra and have been here most of my life. I have spent five years working in the public service and most of the other time contracting or consulting to them. I have friends who work in the public service.

What one needs to note is that this isn't a game of chess when dealing with them, it's much different, and I knew from the beginning that I

had to ensure I was tackling procedures and not the people working there.

As I discovered from my first meeting with them, they were polite, helpful and sincere in their dealings, but they were not trained and had no knowledge of what sex and/or gender identity is and how to understand transsexuals and why this was so important to us. What was missing and it was very obvious, was a lack of training and knowledge in anything sex and/or gender diverse.

I also decided to be open and honest in all my dealings, and I never tried to be tricky or deceitful. I have been hiding my whole life – I didn't want to go down that path again. So I made sure I didn't compromise my principles in my dealings with them.

I have a background in ISO 9001 procedures and have taken one company through certification so I know and understand guidelines. After my first meeting with the Passport Office, I was given a verbal decline for a full passport stating female in just 30 minutes because I was not booked for and showed no intention of having genital surgery.

My therapist, Dr Tracie O'Keefe, DCH agreed to follow-up with them and contacted the case worker. At this point I started on the paperwork. I knew it was important to keep a paper trail and I ensured everything said and done was documented, catalogued and tracked.

My history of events was going to be more accurate than theirs. So I requested another formal meeting.

This time I attended with three official letters of procedural complaint and one commendation to the original staff member who was legitimately sincere and polite in her dealings with me. There were two officials in attendance and it was a formal meeting.

The letters of complaint about their procedures related to the Passports Office's website, which was incorrect and misleading, and how my initial dealings with them were incorrectly handled. A couple of weeks later I received an official response denying my request, citing reference to the Passport Act and my birth certificate not matching my passport.

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I also didn't satisfy the "rare and unique circumstances of a compelling humanitarian nature", which they said gave them discretion in such decisions on case-by-case basis.

I appealed the decision immediately, citing prior cases and concerns about my safety in having to travel on a passport that did not reflect my gender identity and presentation. I requested an impartial mediator because I didn't believe my case was being heard fairly.

I also pointed out their obvious lack of knowledge and requested information about how I was judged on humanitarian guidelines. I felt confident with the appeal. I went public with the local newspaper, the *Canberra Times*, and succeeded in having a full-page article written on my case. My appeal was rejected on the same grounds as before.

I rang their legal counsel regarding the appeal and realised very quickly that their level of knowledge regarding sex and/or gender diversity was non-existent. Yet they had made their decisions. They refused to acknowledge risks to my safety when travelling on a passport that did not reflect my gender identity and presentation and insisted I use a Document of Identity (DOI) like other transsexual and transgendered people.

It was then agreed during a phone call that they would answer any further questions I have in writing. Within two hours I submitted four pages, requesting information about their skill set, training and knowledge, what methods they used for determining humanitarian guidelines. I requested detailed reasoning why I needed answers before my appeal.

My questions were never answered and with one week to go I put in the appeal request to the Federal Government Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). I had to pay a large fee up front and I requested a skilled and impartial person to handle it. I had concerns up front because the form requested gender on it, and my whole case was based around this and my identity. On contacting them, they said this part of the form was optional.

Realising that if I didn't do this, others would share a similar fate because the precedent was

currently in the negative, I lodged the appeal and caught the Passport Office off guard as they referred to me in paperwork as female. I did succeed in getting a further small victory in that the Passport Office admitted in writing they had no procedures for determining what humanitarian guidelines one can be judged against.

I again used prior cases of similar discrimination, like the Peter Hyndal case, as the grounds for the appeal, and then went into reading on previous case law in Australia to get a feel for what I would have to face. When they requested the date of the hearing to be pushed back, I said no. I was ready to put forward my case. I also made it known I wanted the case to be public.

I might have been hiding who I was my whole life, but I wasn't going to do that now.

In all my dealings with the Passport Office, I used my original name and no title. With the AAT I used my female name and female title. Ironically and actually quite importantly the Passport Office in the appeal actually referred to me as Ms and used my female name even though I had never used it with them. I deliberately kept a neutral path.

I have not changed my name, but as a simple extension (adding an 'le' to the end) as an alias to help people cope with the transition. They had unknowingly identified me as female, and done it via legal paperwork. They also had no grounds to say this was what I wanted to be referred to as, as I had never in writing expressed that.

As this whole case centred in part around establishing my identity as female (and their quoting the law saying they needed access to the sex on my birth certificate to establish my identity), it was quite absurd that in the rejection email I was referred to in the feminine but was told I had to be male on my passport.

Interestingly and as I repeatedly pointed out to them, the law stated that they may use the gender on the passport to establish identity, it did not say that they had to.

When I received my official legal papers from the AAT, they also referred to me as female and

Issue Eighty-Eight

this time, an official legal document established my identity as female. Again, without anyone realising it, I was being identified and treated as female.

I sent through documentation to the Tribunal covering these points:

1. Trying to associate fraud with anyone gender transitioning was tantamount to an insidious form of discrimination.

2. The issue was about my safety when travelling above all else, and I was not going to be used as an experiment to prove the point that I could be incarcerated when travelling because I did not match my passport.

3. Forcing me to use a DOI, when I was entitled to a passport, was discrimination on two grounds. The first being that an employee of the crown was knowingly putting me in a position of embarrassment or harm if I had to keep my passport as male.

The second was that they were denying me a goods and service under the law because of my sex and gender identity. Whether these arguments had merit I never found out. I also raised the issue that the government was either dictating that I use an inferior DOI when I travel, or that I travel as a male.

In effect they were dictating what my sex and gender identity should be. A very dangerous path to go down.

At my preliminary hearing there were two lawyers, one a partner, representing the Passport Office. Intimidating – yes, but it worked well for me. I realised my case was more important and warranted more attention than I was led to believe. The Department didn't want to lose and they were using excessive legal muscle to ensure it.

The case went from a simple one of wanting to change one letter on my passport to ensure my safety when I travelled, into one which now

looked absurd. Here I was, with no legal skill, just fighting for my safety when I travelled, up against a government department sending in two lawyers to push their case.

When I showed them my current passport photo taken 18 months ago it was obvious I looked completely different.

When I raised the embarrassing issues encountered entering and leaving the country, and that in the United States my driver's licence was accepted by officials as a form of identity and not my passport, it showed how useless my passport was for establishing my identity.

Considering the prime purpose of the passport

is to establish one's identity, this issue proved my point. It surprised me that they did not push the use of the DOI, which until then had been their strongest argument. Maybe the points I raised with them had merit. Without it, I knew they had no

case, as without it, the case now focused around my safety when I travelled, and there were well documented prior cases involving the Passport Office whereby it had to officially acknowledge that not matching your passport gender is a safety concern as in the Stefanie Imbruglia case.

I felt at all times that this case was not about winning or showing up the Passport Office. That wasn't my goal. My aim was to help them understand that the implementation of procedures and guidelines were causing harm to those transitioning.

After the hearing I went on the offensive, raising arguments against possible further technicalities they might try to sneak a win on.

When the rules of the hearing were sent to me, and one of them included the establishment of whether I qualify under humanitarian guidelines, I responded with my most emotive and strongly worded letter.



I pointed out that nobody was qualified to make this decision: the Passport Office had no basic understanding of what the humanitarian guidelines really are because they eventually admitted there was “no policy document, guidelines or any other information in existence that expands on the meaning of the expression ‘rare and unique circumstances of a compelling humanitarian nature’ ”. Eventually after the preliminary hearing Passport Office conceded the case and it was settled with them issuing me with my ten-year female passport. The decision handed by the AAT on 27 May 2011 states:

“The Respondent’s decision of 25 January 2011 to refuse to issue an Australian passport to the Applicant with the sex shown as female is set aside; and the Applicant’s application for a passport dated 17 November 2010 is to be remitted to the Respondent with the direction that an Australian passport be issued to the Applicant, noting her sex as female.”

In cases such as mine, I advise people to follow procedures to the letter, document what happens, and let them know when the procedures fail. Focus on the procedures and guidelines, not the individuals. Always look for win/win situations and understand whom you are dealing with. Be open and honest, do not be deceitful. Do not be bullied by bureaucratic procedures and stay strong, because you are not alone.

Special thanks goes to Dr Tracie O’Keefe DCH and the campaigning group Sex And Gender Education (SAGE). As my sex and gender therapist Tracie has provided me with the direction, advice and assistance I needed to make it this far.

I would also like to thank my local Federal Representative, Gai Brodtmann, whom I found out today had actually made efforts behind the scenes in a number of key areas to help my case.



Addendum by Tracie O’Keefe:

This is yet another pivotal case in the history of the Australian Passports Office’s changing policy on passports for transitioning transsexed, transsexual and transgendered people. In the

past the Australian Passport Office has cited transitioning women who have not had genital surgery as potential terrorist risks.

Marcelle’s case establishes that from day one of official transition a person should be entitled to a full ten-year passport in the gender they present themselves to be, regardless of genitalia status or sex stated on the birth certificate. Accompanying letters from professionals must be included.

Genital surgery or a promise of surgery should not be the decider or qualifier of real entitlement to a gender-appropriate passport, although hormone treatment may need to be present. Under international law a passport must match the presenting identity and provide a safe document of travel. The Passport Office says it has discretion on humanitarian grounds. However, to change a passport the applicant must state that being transsexed, transsexual or transgendered in the first place is a qualifier for consideration on humanitarian grounds.

SAGE will now press for better humanitarian guidelines and policies to be put in place at the Passport Office. People applying for new passports in a revised gender may encounter difficulties until those guidelines are put in place but Marcelle’s case proves that lack of surgery should never be an obstacle to having the gender on your passport changed when you are transitioning. SAGE is willing to help in difficult cases.


Marcelle is a transsexual woman who lives in Canberra. She has requested that her surname not be revealed in this article.

Editor-in-chief’s note: The Scavenger has seen and verified documents quoted in this article that pertain to this case.


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Polare enthusiastically endorses the congratulations awarded to Marcelle, to Tracie O’Keefe and to The Scavenger following publication of this story.




NEEDLE EXCHANGE



7 Bent Street,
PETERSHAM
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A confidential free service for people
with gender issues (*Ask for the
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or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr
advice, information and referral service. Sydney
02 9331 2111
Country 009.42.2599



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

Pay-It-Forward Binder Program

is a used binder service that provides used donated binders to:

*** guys in the Australian and New Zealand region who need a chest binder and are struggling financially or cannot obtain a binder through regular channels e.g.: Centrelink recipients, students, individuals who do not have an income, or do not have the support of their families to access binders.

The aim is to alleviate some of the dysphoria experienced by FTMs and to improve their quality of life.

The Pay-It-Forward program accepts donated binders, which are cleaned, sized and passed on to those in need.

The service is based on honesty and should not be accessed by those who are just looking to save money.

Our website is:

<http://binderprogram.ftmaustralia.org> or you can email: binderprogram@ftmaustralia.org

Call me Del. My name is Delilah SlackSmith, but would I truly be Australian if I'd taken a name that couldn't be abbreviated?

About four-and-a-quarter years ago, about a year-and-a-half after my transition, I was looking for a new sporting activity and came upon a free self-defence demo being offered to the queer community during Mardi Gras season. Soon afterwards and as a direct consequence, I started taking kick-boxing classes with the instructor, Sifu Penny Gulliver. Soon after, I joined her kung fu club, GLMA (Gay and Lesbian Martial Arts).

I have trained with Sifu Penny for about four years now. In that time, I have learnt forms (unarmed and weapons), sparring and bagwork, and self-defence. I believe that all these things have been greatly to my benefit. When I was preparing to go the Gay Games last year, I was asked by a journalist from the SSO what I love about my sport, so please forgive me for quoting myself: "Learning new techniques to minimise my chances of being killed by transphobic assholes; increasing my chances of making transphobic assholes regret their actions in the event that they **do** try to kill me; releasing stress by harnessing my negative emotions; performing a form with a combination of grace, speed, power, and ferocity."

I have learnt six (almost seven) unarmed forms and three weapons forms. I have competed in

tournaments and won a fair-sized collection of ugly trophies (thirteen at last count). I have never considered grace my strong suit, so once again quoting myself: "The trophies of which I am most proud were won against people



whom I thought were probably better than me." In addition to my good luck at tournaments, I competed at the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, taking silver in advanced open weapons (against three men, interestingly enough) and bronze in advanced women's forms.

Sparring training has honed my speed, bagwork my power.

By now I am reasonably confident that if I really needed to hurt someone to defend myself or someone I cared about, I could do a reasonably effective job of it.

I have been taught numerous self-defence techniques. I feel much safer walking through dark alleyways late at night and am reasonably confident that if I ever

find myself cornered by a group of rapists or transphobes (or both) who have decided they want a piece of me, then I won't be the only one to wind up in hospital.

In the time I have trained with GLMA, I have graded from no belt at all through Brown, Yellow, Blue, Green, and two stripes. I am hoping to grade again in August, but will probably not be grading after that until some time next year.



Delilah takes silver at the Gay Games

VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO UN LIKENS GENDER IDENTITY TO INCEST, RAPE AND PEDOPHILIA

A resolution backing a non-binding resolution condemning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity has been condemned by Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, the Vatican representative to the UN Human Rights Council. Tomasi said “all societies regulate sexual behavior to some extent - by forbidding



Bishop Silvano M. Tomasi

practices like incest, pedophilia, or rape - for the common good.” He went on to suggest that being gay is a choice and that “instead of ‘gender’ the concept we should use is ‘sex’, a universal term in natural law referring to male and female. “In fact it seems that terms such as ‘gender’ and

‘sexual orientation’ are devised to escape reality and to accommodate a variety of feelings and impulses that then are transformed into rights,” he said.

8 MILLION LGBs IN USA, AND 700,000 TRANSGENDERS

There are at least 8 million gay, lesbian or bisexual individuals in the US, and 700,000 transgenders, according to research carried out by the Williams Institute, a think-tank located in Los Angeles. The statistics were derived from cross-referencing four recent national and two state-level population surveys.

The Institute of Medicine at the National Academy released an analysis of LGBT health research calling for federal statistical agencies to include LGBT figures in their data.

MORE PARENTS SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT GENDER NON-CONFORMING CHILDREN

An article in the New York Times (“Boys Will Be Boys? Not In These Families”) reports that there is a growing number of parents seeking guidance in order to help their gender non-conforming children. Therapists, clinics and organizations such as PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) report a significant increase in parents asking about gender behaviour and sexuality of their four-

year-olds. The article also points out the growing number of books written to help in this field, including *My Princess Boy*, *10,000 Dresses*, *Gender Born*, *Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children*, and blogs such as “Accepting Dad” and “Raising My Rainbow; Adventures in Raising a Slightly Effeminate, Possibly Gay, Totally Fabulous Son”.

LESBIAN NEWS EDITOR REVEALED AS MAN

Investigation into a blog called “Gay Girl in Damascus” has resulted in a double disclosure. Not only was the author of the blog, writing under the name Amina Abdallah Arraf, a 40-year-old Edinburgh University student named Tom McMaster, but the editor of “Let’s Get Real”, the site which published McMaster, was a construction worker named Bill Graber, writing under the name Paula Brooks. Graber maintains he was editing the site with the best intentions, in order to publish pieces concerning gay issues after seeing lesbian friends of his mistreated. Tom McMaster is a Middle-East activist.



Bill Graber editor of “Let’s Get Real” a supposedly lesbian publication

SWEDISH PRE-SCHOOL AVOIDS GENDER-TYPING

A preschool named Egalia, in the Sodermalm district of Stockholm, Sweden, has been established with the intention of engineering equality between the sexes. Those bent on creating equality between the sexes believe that “there is a hierarchy where everything boys do is given higher value”. Construction toys are deliberately placed near the play-kitchen so that mental barriers are not constructed between male and female activities.

Director Lotta Rajalin intends to build an environment which will tolerate gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children.

Nearly all the books in the children’s library deal with gay couples, single parents or adopted children. Fairy tales that tend to stereotype women as victims and men as rescuers (Snow White, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty) are absent from the collection. There is a long waiting list and so far only one couple has withdrawn their child.

Jay Belsky, a child psychologist in California, questioned the concept, saying “Gender neutrality at its worst is emasculating maleness.”

SAMOAN PRIME MINISTER PRAISES FA’AFAFINE, CALLS THEM “SPECIAL MIRACLES”

The Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele, addressing a workshop in Apia, the capital of Samoa, has praised Samoan transgenders, known as fa’afafine, as “glorious miracles of God” and has stated that “Every year you all look very different.” He went on to say, “Blonde hair, glossy lipstick, sporting Gucci handbags and us men continue to be taken in by your looks. It is only your thick, muscular calves, bulked up after years of playing Rugby, that give you away.”

Reception for the statement has been mixed. It was taken as complimentary in Samoa but activists in the United States have taken exception to views which they say are “typical of a misogynistic patriarchal male.

TRANS AUTHOR/POET ATTACKED IN STREET

Teri Louise Kelly, author of two autobiographical books, *Sex, Lies and Bouillabaise* and *The Last Bed On Earth*, as well as an autobiographical e-book, *American Blow Job*, and a book of poetry, *Girls Like Me: A Book of Modern Poetry* has been attacked on the streets of Adelaide after a poetry reading.



Teri Louise Kelly

Kelly and her partner, who wanted to be known only as “Red”, were set upon by two men as they walked home through Hurtle Square, shortly before midnight.

Kelly was unable to give a reason for the attack. “It was like I was in “Fight Club” all of a sudden,” she said. “It seemed like

violence for violence’s sake. I don’t understand what the kicks are in this.”

Kelly suffered bruises to her kidneys, a sore back, bruises to her arm and leg, a twisted ankle

and a bite mark on her thumb. “Red” was bitten on her back and sustained two black eyes.

No report was made to the police as Kelly said even if they had known the identities of the attackers there would have been too many complications in trying to account for the attack.

A police spokesman said victims should always report crimes to the police.

Kelly warned people to be aware of their surroundings while walking at night. “People have to be ready for anything because we take safety too lightly in Adelaide.”

FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARIAN WARREN ENTSCH RECOMMENDS IDENTITY DOCUMENT REFORM

Warren Entsch, chairman of the newly formed parliamentary friendship group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex and transgender people has drawn attention to

the need for a global change in identity records for those who have had their gender reassigned. Entsch suggests strongly that it is essential that all reassigned genders should be recorded in new birth



Warren Entsch

certificates so that all government departments would refer to such people by their new, and correct, names and gender honorifics (Mr, Ms, Miss, Mrs etc.).

He said he would support legislation to allow those who have changed their gender identity to obtain new birth certificates.

“I think it is critical that these changes be made, why can’t we recognise a person for who they are?” he said. He added that safeguards could be devised to prevent the use by criminals of these provisions for criminal purposes.

[Ed. note. As birth certificates are a State matter, would a global revision of birth documentation require a Federal over-ride of State laws?]

Two new drugs for the treatment of the most common form of hepatitis C may hit the market in Australia by the end of next year. While they won't revolutionise the treatment of hep C, they will generally shorten treatment periods and increase the chances of a cure for people with the most common genotype in Australia, genotype 1.

The new drug, Incivek (telaprevir) and Victrelis (boceprevir) are protease inhibitors and will be taken by tablet. But treatment will still involve taking pegylated interferon by weekly injection and ribavirin by daily tablets.

While treatment for hep C has improved markedly in recent years, the side effects can be grueling, and a cure is far from certain.

In the case of people with genotype 1, standard treatment with pegylated interferon and ribavirin results in a cure rate between 40% and 50% and requires a 48-week treatment period. For people with genotypes 2 and 3, cure rates are up to about 80% and treatment usually requires 24 weeks. But genotype 1 is the most common type in Australia accounting for about 50% of cases.

For "non-responders" (people who experience no observable benefits while on treatment) and "relapsers" (people who achieve a full or part viral clearance while on treatment but whose viral load bounces back after treatment is finished), there are few options at present. They can be given another round of treatment with interferon and ribavirin, but their chances of a cure are quite limited.

While the side effects of treatment - which include flu-like symptoms, skin rashes, weight loss, depression and insomnia - can be difficult to manage, it is believed that many people may have exaggerated concerns about them.

As a possible result of this - and due to rigorous clinical assessment by treatment specialists - only a small percentage of people who have hep C have actually undergone treatment.

According to the Third National Hepatitis C Strategy 2010-2013, while 226,500 Australians have chronic hep C, only 3,500 a year are undergoing treatment, despite 9,700 new infections and 330 deaths occurring annually. But the protease inhibitors promise a significant advance on current treatments, in terms of improved cure rates and shorter treatment times. One of the problems with the current

combination of interferon and ribavirin is that neither drug specifically targets the hep C virus.

Interferon is a stimulator of the immune system, helping the immune system to rid the body cells affected by the hep C virus. Ribavirin is an antiviral drug but does not specifically target hep C - but the new drugs do.

Protease inhibitors are a class of drugs known as directly-acting antivirals. Protease inhibitors block the hep C virus from making new copies of itself. The virus produces enzymes called proteases which cut proteins inside liver cells into smaller pieces so they can be used to manufacture more hep C viruses. Protease inhibitors block this process and so inhibit the manufacture of new hep C viruses.

Paul is one person to benefit from the new protease inhibitors currently being developed. Last year he underwent a medical trial of a new protease inhibitor used in combination with current pegylated interferon and ribavirin therapy.

This was a great opportunity for him as he'd tried standard pegylated combination treatment in 2003 and although he responded well on treatment, the virus bounced back soon after his treatment finished.

"My specialist said that with this new protease inhibitor drug I had an increased chance of clearing my hep C, and I didn't want to let the chance slip by," he said.

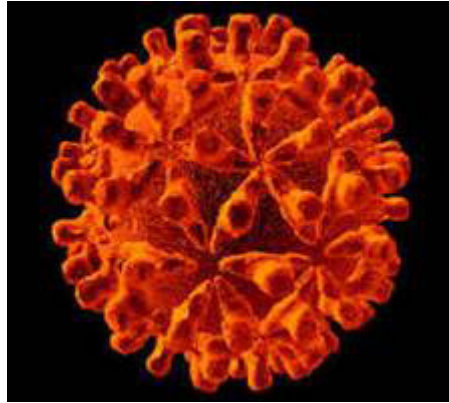
"After twelve months of triple treatment and more than six months of follow-up, I've now had two confirmatory tests which show that I'm hep C free," he added.

Two other protease inhibitors are in more advanced stages of development.

Telaprevir is manufactured by Vertex Pharmaceuticals (to be distributed by Janssen in Australia), and boceprevir is manufactured by Merck.

Professor Geoff Farrell, Professor of Hepatic Medicine and Gastroenterology at the Australian National University Medical School, says he expects that the drugs will be on the market in Australia by the end of 2012.

"They've been fast-tracked for approval in North America and Europe. We expect to see them on the market there by July this year, and in Australia by the end of next year," he says.



hep C virus

Both drugs will be taken as tablets, three times per day.

The drugs have been extensively trialled in Europe, the US and in Australia. They have been tested in people with genotype 1 who have undergone existing treatments with interferon and ribvirin but failed to get a cure, or SVR (sustained viral response). The drugs have also been trialled as first line treatments in combination with interferon and ribavirin, as triple therapy, in people who have not yet had any treatment for their hep C.

Clinical trials such as the ADVANCE, ILLUMINATE and REALIZE trials have consistently shown that adding telaprevir or boceprevir to standard treatment (peginterferon plus ribavirin) increases SVR rates. In people with genotype 1, the increase is from 40-50% to 80%. Additionally, in more than half of trial participants, these cure rates were often achieved with just 24 weeks rather than 48 weeks of treatment. There is little to choose between the two new drugs in terms of their effectiveness, although telaprevir may be more effective in people who shown no response to previous treatment.

Professor Farrell says the biggest improvement is seen in patients who are especially hard to treat; that is, people who have cirrhosis, obesity, insulin resistance (i.e. pre-diabetes) and/or a high viral load.

“Adding a protease inhibitor raises the cure rate from 20% to 65% in these hard-to-treat patients,” he says.

There is, however, a downside: patients on triple therapy reported more side effects than those on conventional dual therapy. Side effects included skin rash (the most common side effect) anaemia, fatigue, fever, headache, nausea, insomnia, diarrhea and flu-like symptoms. In most cases, however, side effects were mild or moderate and could be addressed by lotions or medications. Skin rashes were less likely with boceprevir than with telaprevir.

Because of the side effects, more people dropped out of the triple therapy regimens than standard treatment - around 15% in some studies compared to 5% for standard dual therapy.

Another problem is that boceprevir and telaprevir have been designed to treat people with genotype 1. They are ineffective against genotypes 2 and 3, although other classes of directly acting antivirals are being developed against those other hep C genotypes. Nevertheless these drugs are a significant advance in the treatment of hep C,

says Professor Farrell. He expects them to be licensed and available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in Australia for use as first line treatments and for use by people who have failed previous treatment regimes.

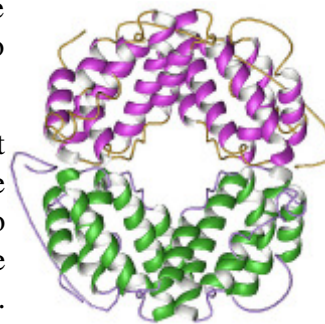
As a result, people whose disease has advanced to cirrhosis, who are therefore at risk of liver failure or liver cancer, now have a greatly increased chance of a cure.

He says the protease inhibitors will almost certainly be followed by other drugs that will improve the outlook even further for people with hep C.

At the latest EASL (European Association for the Study of the Liver) conference in Berlin in March 2011 there was a great deal of interest in two new experimental drugs called BMS790052, an NSSA replication complex inhibitor and BMS 650032, another protease inhibitor. Evidence presented at the conference showed that when these two drugs were taken in combination with interferon

and ribavirin (quadruple therapy) they produced a cure in most people who hadn't responded to past therapy. Furthermore, nearly 40% of people who had previously not responded to treatment achieved a cure with just these two drugs without interferon and ribavirin.

Results like these raise the possibility of future treatment for hep C without interferon being used at all.



Interferon

“Taking interferon out of the mix is a holy grail of hep C treatment”, says Professor Geoff McCaughan, head of the AW Morrow Gastroenterology and Liver Centre at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. “Interferon is responsible for many of the more severe side effects of treatment, and if it can be eliminated from treatment then many more people can be treated.”

It may not be long before the worst side effects of hep C treatment are a distant memory. The speed with which new treatments are being developed has taken everyone by surprise.

Professor McCaughan believes it may soon become possible to achieve a cure in almost all patients with hep C and possibly one day to eradicate the disease.

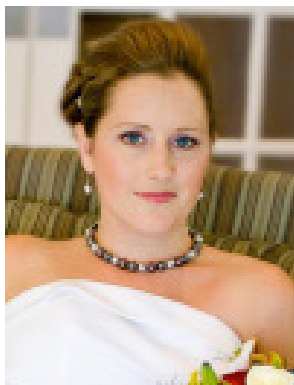
This article is reprinted with permission from *Hep Review* Winter, June 2011, Edition 73.

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p.lavelle@optusnet.com.au

More News Items of Interest

NIKKI ARAGUZ TO SEEK NEW TRIAL

Nikki Araguz, widow of Thomas Araguz III, a fireman who died in the course of his duties, has once again been denied access to death

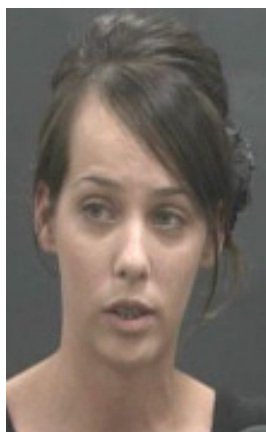


Nikki Araguz

benefits from her husband's demise. There has been dispute between Ms Araguz and Thomas's mother and Thomas's former wife Heather Delgado on the grounds that Ms Araguz is a transgender woman and that the marriage was therefore invalid. This view was supported by County District Judge Randy

Clapp who ruled the marriage invalid because Nikki was born male.

OII claims that Nikki is, in fact, intersex rather than transgender, and has the condition PAIS or Partial Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, which creates a female appearance in spite of XY chromosomes, as the individual's body is unable to take up testosterone.



Heather Delgado

Whether intersex or transgender it seems clear that Ms Araguz has suffered an injustice under Texan law. OII also states that no help has come to Ms Araguz from the transgender community but in fact Phyllis Frye, perhaps the most

p r e s t i g i o u s transgender activist attorney in the United States is energetically involved in the case. Ms Frye is the first transgender to be made a judge in the State of Texas, and the third in the United States (the other two are in California).



Phyllis Frye

It has been suggested that the case may be fought all the way to the Supreme Court.

WEST AUSTRALIAN FTMs CASE HEARD IN HIGH COURT

The case involving two FTMs who were refused the right to have their gender affirmations legalised after the State Attorney General rescinded approval. The FTMs in question do not wish to have invasive genital surgery, which means, effectively, that they would retain the ability to bear children. The Attorney General feels it is wrong for a man to have this capacity, despite precedents in other countries, such as the United States (the cases of Thomas Beattie and others) .

The FTMs, who cannot be named for legal reasons, believe that they are male but have not attempted to have their female genitalia revised and there are no penis construction operations available in Australia at present. To go to the United States for penis construction would require some months residence (or several trips) and is extremely expensive.

The full history of these case is that the FTMs were refused gender identity reform by the Gender Reassignment Board and appealed to the State Administrative Tribunal which upheld their case.

The Attorney General intervened after the Tribunal upheld the appeal and ordered the Reassignment Board to issue certificates recognising the gender change. The Attorney General's appeal was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

In the High Court it was agreed that the Appeal Court decision meant that FTMs were required to have phalloplasty surgery in order to be granted legal recognition as men.

Steven Penglis, appearing pro-bono for the FTMs said that phalloplasty was not available because of its high cost and low success rate, but George Tannin, for the State of Western Australia, said that social recognition of a person's gender was insufficient and the wording of the law, which requires surgical reassignment of genitalia could not be ignored.

The Full Court of the High Court has reserved its decision.

PARENTS OF TRANSGENDER CHILDREN

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

Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

(11 July, 8 August, 12 September)

A light supper will be available.

Contact Liz or Anthony on 9569 2366

Barbecues and other events 2011

Christmas Barbecue Saturday 17 December (Noon to 4.00pm)



Location to be advised

Watch the Gender Centre Website, Twitter and Facebook

Change of mailing list?

different Gender?
different Address?
different Name?

no more Polaresthanks?

Mail to:

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

All my OLD details

All my NEW details

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Young and Transgender? 20-35 years?

Whether you're a verified gender outlaw or just gender questioning and want to find some like-minded travellers ... 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.

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

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_mmsh@hotmail.com

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.

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, fundraisers 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:

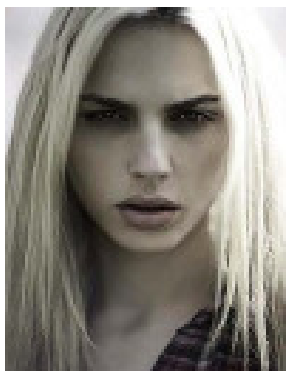
family law | criminal matters | fines | AVOs | victim's compensation | employment | identity documents | police complaints | discrimination | domestic violence | sexual assault | complaints against government | powers of attorney | enduring guardianship | wills | driving offenses | credit and debt |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

MEN'S MAGAZINE SHOWS ITS TRUE COLOURS

FHM (For Him Magazine) recently asked its readers to vote for their annual "100 Sexiest Women in the World".

Andrej Pejic, the nineteen-year-old androgynous model from Melbourne, who models both male and female clothing, came in at number 98. As Lisa Foad said in her column "Tongue Lashing" in Xtra.ca, "Pejic, with his tall, angular frame, his glass-cutting cheekbones, his stormy white-hot mane, is a muse able to perform both high-femme and haute-couture masculinity, a gender-bending that ultimately ices out gender binaries altogether."



Andrej Pejic

FHM had a different take on Pejic. Each of the 100 "sexiest women" had a profile note added by the magazine.

Pejic's ran "Andrej has been confusing the male gender since he was fourteen ... the professional cross-dresser most likely fooled his modelling agency as well.



Love magazine cover with Kate Moss and Lea T.

Although his sexual identity is ambiguous, designers are hailing him as the next big thing. We think "thing" is quite accurate ... Pass the sick bucket ... More troubling is the fact that Andrej is not the only one when it comes to supermodels that are not all they seem. The current face of Givenchy and lady locking lips with Kate Moss on the cover of *Love* magazine is transgender model Lea T, who began life as Leandro. One fashion trend we won't be following."

This piece of testosterone-fuelled bigotry created such a furore that the magazine felt impelled to retract and apologise, posting the following:

"Andrej Pejic appears at number 98 in FHM's 100 Sexiest Women in the World 2011. Regrettably the copy accompanying Andrej's online entry wasn't subbed prior to going live. Once we realised, we removed it immediately and apologised for any offence it caused."

"Andrej Pejic appears at number 98 in FHM's 100 Sexiest Women in the World 2011. Regrettably the copy accompanying Andrej's online entry wasn't subbed prior to going live. Once we realised, we removed it immediately and apologised for any offence it caused."

And Still More News

Andrej's manager, Matthew Anderson, said, "The insecure and negative comments FHM have made about their own readers voting Andrej 'sexy' say a lot more about their own issues than they say about FHM's readers. If Andrej made the sexiest list, then they should just admit their reader thought a man was attractive and deal with it."

Pejic merely Twittered "98?"

Pejic recently told the Polish magazine *Viva! Moda*, "This no longer bothers me and I feel good about it. I wear both women's and men's clothes ... I don't see my look as unusual - that opinion is, according to me, very exaggerated. I felt uncomfortable only when I couldn't live in accordance with myself, rather than in a social role that was forced on me."

IRISH PROPOSALS TO ALLOW TRANSGENDER AFFIRMATION CRITICISED BY TRANS CAMPAIGNERS

Ireland does not currently give legal recognition to transgenders who go through affirmation processes. On 14 July the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, put forward proposals to be introduced to Parliament next year, intended to help transgenders in Ireland.

Requirements for legal recognition would include restriction to those who have undergone genital surgery or have a formal medical diagnosis, insistence that, if the transgender is married, he or she must go through divorce. In addition the transgender must have lived in the affirmed role for at least two years and must sign a statutory declaration that they will live in their newly affirmed gender for the rest of their lives. There would be a three-member panel to assess applications and, if successful, the transgenders would be given a Gender Recognition Certificate and a revised birth certificate.

Trans activists resist some of these terms, pointing out that many transgenders are in loving relationships and have children. To break up families would be morally and ethically wrong.

Joan Burton responds that to allow affirmed transgenders to remain married would be "constitutionally unsound", as Ireland does not recognise same-sex marriages. The UK and Australia similarly insist on divorce before fully documented transition is possible.

Broden Giambrone of Transgender Equality Network stated that the demand for a GID diagnosis would disadvantage Intersex people as well as some transgenders.

Sex, Gender & Sexuality Clinic

Director: Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH, ND



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Psychotherapist
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"Compelling in freshness."
- Del LaGrace Volcano

"The genius of the editors is in capturing these different visions."
- Christine Burns, VP of Press for Change, UK

"A rich and varied array of informative and provocative stories of relationships."
- Jamision Green

"Do not neglect this book."
- Professor A.W. Steinbeck

An anthology of real-life stories by trans people of their experiences of being in love

Contributors include Sydney legend 'Carmen' and a foreword by Kate Bornstein & Barbara Carrellas

Published by Routledge, 2008
(In stock at The Bookshop and the Feminist Bookshop in Sydney, and at Hares & Hyenas in Melbourne).

Still available: *Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex & Gender Diversity*, eds: Tracie O'Keefe & Katrina Fox

STOP PRESS

Further to the story about Marcelle and her seven month struggle to obtain a passport which would represent her accurately, without having to go through gender affirmation surgery (p.16), it appears that the situation is not quite as resolved as we had hoped.

Delilah Slack-Smith, whose story on self-defence skills appears on p.21 attempted to use Marcelle's experience as a precedent but when she contacted the Passport Office was confronted with a lot of invasive questions and no co-operation and the person from the

Passport Office finally hung up on Del.

When Del applied to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in order to use what she believed to be a ruling in Marcelle's favour it turned out to be a settlement on mutually agreed terms, not binding on other cases.

If the Passport Office is going to issue passports on a case-by-case basis it will be a long struggle to obtain the common-sense goal of a passport that describes how a person is, not how they were.

KC

Historic Decision at the United Nations: Human Rights Council Passes First-Ever Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

(Geneva, June 17, 2011) In a groundbreaking achievement for upholding the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the United Nations Human Rights Council has passed a resolution on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity (L.9/Rev.1).

The resolution, presented by South Africa along with Brasil and 39 additional co-sponsors from all regions of the world, was passed by a vote of 23 in favour, 19 against, and 3 abstentions.

In its presentation to Council, South Africa recalled the UDHR noting that “everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind” and Brasil called on the Council to “open the long closed doors of dialogue”.

Today’s resolution is the first UN resolution ever to bring specific focus to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and follows a joint statement on these issues delivered at the March session of the council. It affirms the universality of human rights, and notes concern about acts of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

This commitment of the Human Rights Council sends an important signal of support to human rights defenders working on these issues, and recognises the legitimacy of their work.

“The South African government has now offered progressive leadership, after years of troubling and inconsistent positions on the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Simultaneously, the government has set a standard for themselves in international spaces. We look forward to contributing to and supporting sustained progressive leadership by

this government and seeing the end of the violations we face daily”. (Dawn Cavanagh, Coalition of African Lesbians)

The resolution requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a study on violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and calls for a panel discussion to be held at the Human Rights Council to discuss the findings of the study in a constructive and transparent manner, and to consider appropriate follow-up.

“That we are celebrating the passage of a UN resolution about human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation is remarkable, however the fact that gender identity is explicitly named truly makes this pivotal moment one to rejoice in,” added Justus Eisfeld, Co-Director of GATE.



“The Human Rights Council has taken a step forward in history by acknowledging that both sexual and gender non-conformity make lesbian, gay, trans* and bi people among those most vulnerable and indicated decisively that states have an obligation to protect us from violence.”

“As treaty bodies, UN special procedures, and national courts have repeatedly recognised, international human rights law prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.” (Alli Jernow, International Commission of Jurists)

The resolution is consistent with other regional and national jurisprudence, and just this week, the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS recognised the need to address the human rights of men who have sex with men, and the Organisation of American States adopted by consensus a resolution condemning violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Earlier in this 17th session of the Human Rights Council, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, reported to the Council that:

“[C]ontributory factors for risk of violence include individual aspects of women’s bodily attributes such as race, skin colour, intellectual and physical abilities, age, language skills and fluency, ethnic identity and sexual orientation.”

The report also detailed a number of violations committed against lesbian, bisexual and trans women, including cases of rape, attacks and murders.

It is therefore regrettable that a reference to “women who face sexuality-related violence” was removed from the final version of another resolution focused on the elimination of violence against women during the same session.

“Despite this inconsistency, we trust the UN resolution on s e x u a l orientation and gender identity will facilitate the integration of the full range of sexual rights throughout the work of the UN.” (Meghan Doherty, Sexual Rights Initiative)



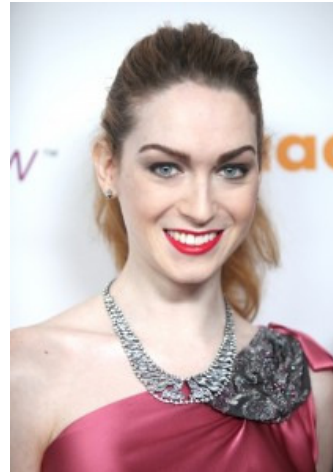
A powerful civil society statement was delivered at the end of the session, welcoming the resolution and affirming civil society’s commitment to continuing to engage with the United Nations with a view to ensuring that all persons are treated as free and equal in dignity and rights, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

“Now, our work is just beginning”, said Kim Vance of ARC International.

“We look forward to the High Commissioner’s report and the plenary panel next March, as well as to further dialogue with, and support from, those States which did not yet feel able to support the resolution, but which share the concern of the international community at these systemic human rights abuses.” □□□□□□□□□□

Transgender Actress In TV Success

Jamie Clayton, a transgender actress, will soon be playing a role in the third season of “Hung” on America’s HBO network.

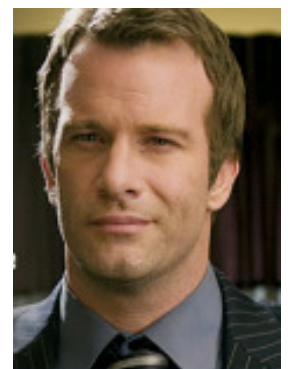


Jamie Clayton

In an interview with *In Touch* magazine, Jamie talked of her forthcoming role as a transgender receptionist. She was previously seen in an earlier series called “TRANSform Me”, in which she and two other transgender women travelled the United States giving other women makeovers and lessons in personal empowerment.

In the new series Jamie will play opposite Thomas Jane who will have the role of a male escort, Ray Decker. Jamie says that Jane got to know her and “realised that I am just a normal girl , just like anyother actress. He knew this was my first role and told me that I was a natural and that he was proud of me.”

She is, however, aware that she is one of the very few transgender actresses currently working. They include Candis Cane in “Dirty Sexy Money”, Laverne Cox and Harmony Santana from the hit movie “Gun Hill Road” and Calpernia Addams who has performed alongside Glenn Close in “The Vagina Monologues”.



Thomas Jane

Jamie is hoping her character will continue in the fourth season of “Hung”. TV Guide has said she is being considered for the position of Ray’s girlfriend. This is reminiscent of the transgender character Hayley Cropper (played by a genetic woman) in Britain’s “Coronation Street”. Hayley became one of the most popular characters on British television and the script had her falling in love and marrying a man ... well ahead of the passing of Britain’s Gender Recognition Act! Maybe Jamie Clayton will have the same good influence on American audiences!

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 TRANSVESTITES)

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

PO Box 502, Glebe NSW 2037

BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION (BGF)

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

Tel: (02) 9283 8666

free call 1800 651 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

Directory Assistance

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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 daily (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

HOLDEN STREET CLINIC

Sexual Health Clinic is staffed by doctors, sexual health nurses, a clinical psychologist and an administration officer.
Mon, Tue, Wed. 9.00am-5.00pm (closed 12.15pm-1.00pm for lunch)
Men's Clinic Thursday evenings 5.00pm-8.00pm
Appointments preferred (02) 4320 2114
Ground Floor 69 Holden St, Gosford 2250
Tel:(02) 4320 2114
Fax: (02)4320 2020

INNER CITY LEGAL CENTRE

Available to discuss any legal matter that concerns you.
Ph: (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 deplores 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.
Tel: (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, 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 Street, Surry Hills, 2010
PO Box 278, Darlinghurst, NSW, 1800
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

TRANS GENDER 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

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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, re-
lax, read the paper, get informa-
tion, referral and advice.

Monday to Friday - 9.30 -
4.30pm 177 Albion Street, Surry
Hills, NSW 2010

Tel: (02) 9360.5388

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:

aacsowp@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 Comm-
unity 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.atsaq@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 WESTERNAUSTRALIA (INC)

Support, information, advocacy and social events for all kinds of transgender and transsexual people. Established 1997
PO Box 1944,
Subiaco, WA, 6904
Mob: 0407 194 282
hmp Perth@cygnus.uwa.edu.au
www.geocities.com/transwest_wa

TRUE COLOURS PROGRAM

1st floor, Trinity Buildings,
72 St Georges Terrace. PERTH,
WA, 6000
Ph: (08) 9483 1333
Fax: (08) 9322 3177
Email:
jaye.edwards@unitingcarewest.org.au
Web: www.unitingcarewest.org.au
The True Colours program aims to promote safe and inclusive rural and regional communities where young people with a diverse sexuality and gender, their families and friends are supported and affirmed. This program offers support to young people who are coming out as well as educating the community services sector and community members about the impact of homophobia and heterosexism on these young people, their families and friends.

WELLBEING CENTRE OF WA

Service for people with blood-borne diseases such as Hep C and HIV/AIDS. This service is for people with issues such as health problems, relationships, medication and alternative therapies.
162 Aberdeen Street,
Northbridge
Tel: (08) 9228 2605

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

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.

AISS 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)

Phalloplasty - And What It Takes...

Many of us will remember the case of the unfortunate Mr Bobbitt and the loss of his penis at he hands of his enraged wife. Mr Bobbitt was luckier than some, as the severed section was relieved, placed in ice and re-attached.

The two Western Australian FTMs who have been denied male identity because they refuse genital surgery (see p.26) raises the question of the creation of a neo-phallus where there has been none before.

“This is the worst case scenario”, says Dr Terry Dubrow, a plastic surgeon in the United States, who has performed penis construction in female-to-male sexual reassignment. “You can think of this like any other limb amputation. It’s all about preservation of the blood vessels -- the arteries and veins.”

Dr Joel Gelman, one of the leading experts in male genital construction says and director of the Center for Reconstructive Urology “It’s a complicated procedure that takes about ten hours and can cost more than \$100,000. [Ed. note: To the best

of our knowledge this operation is not being performed in Australia so that the cost of travel and accommodation would need to be added]

The phalloplasty involves removing tissue, nerves and tint arteries from an arm to build the new penis. This procedure can leave the arm deformed but functional. A new urethra can be made using skin from a variety of locations in the body and the skin is cut in such a way that

it’s a tube within a tube, configured so that it has the appearance of a penis.

But even if a blood supply can be attached to the new phallus, it’s not really a penis, according to Gelman.

There is not way to construct the glans (head of the penis), for instance, and full feeling will not return. To achieve an erection it is necessary to insert an inflatable implant.

“As sophisticated as phalloplasty has become, it does not really provide anything that’s similar or close to functional, and having the cosmetic appearance of a normal penis”, Gelman said.



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

NSW Seahorse Society

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW INC
PO BOX 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”