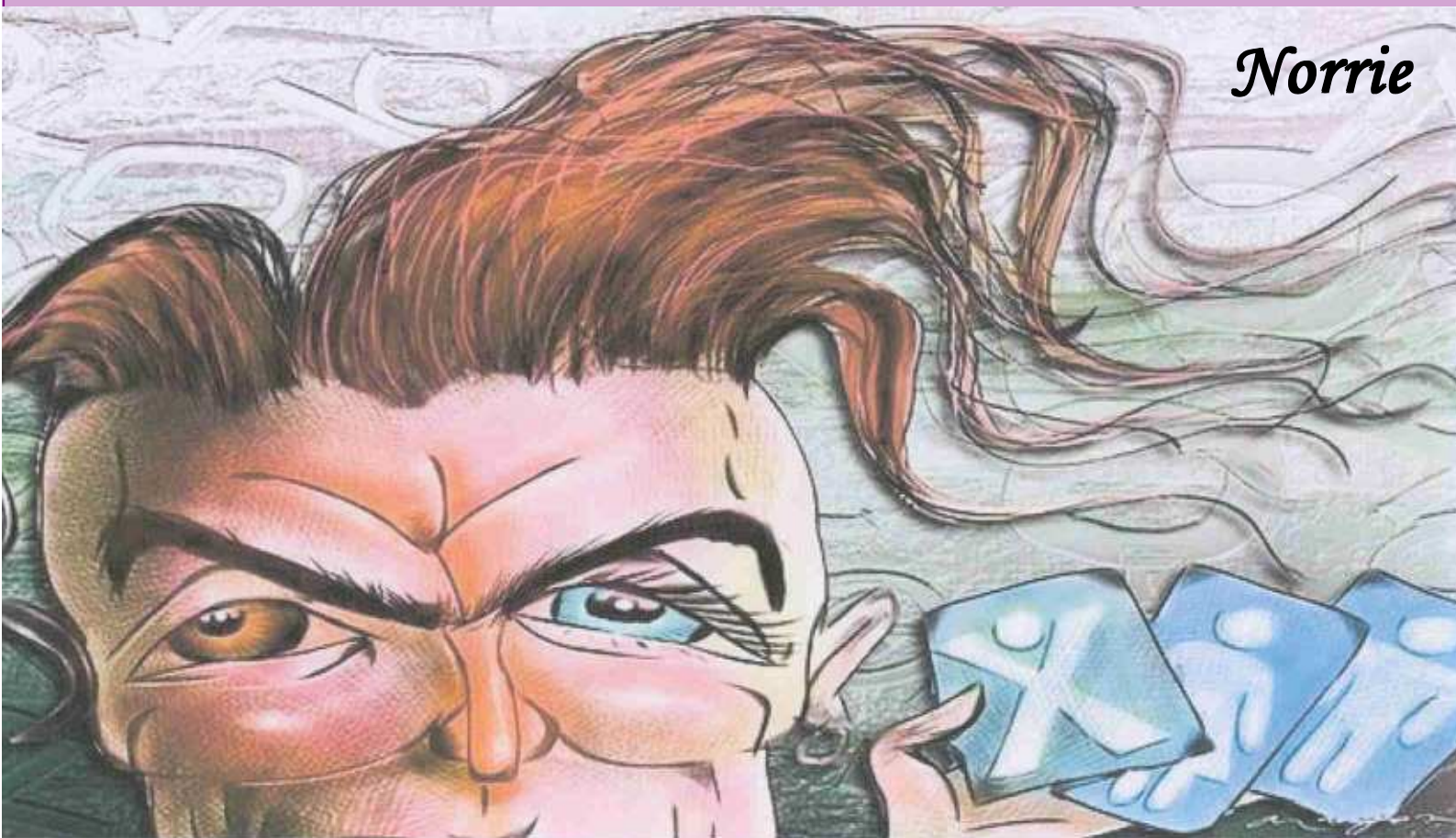


Polare



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

**Edition 96
July-September 2013**

The Gender Centre & Aurora Foundation present:

transtopia

2013

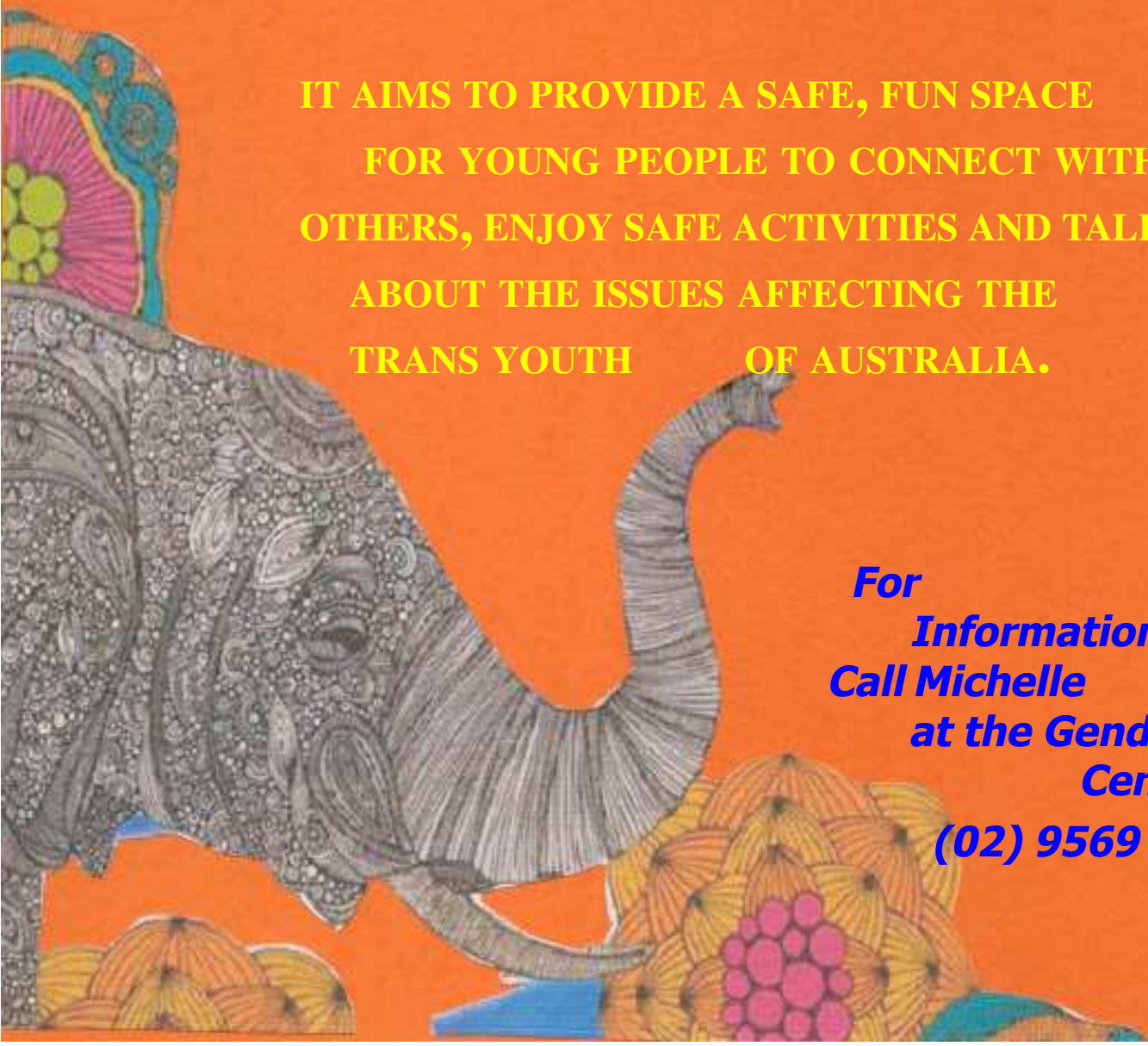
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The Gender Centre is also committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues.

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

the Gender Centre

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(9-4.30, M-F)

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Website:

www.gendercentre.org.au

**The Gender Centre is staffed
9am-4.30pm Monday to Friday**

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- Quarterly magazine *Polare*
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For all enquiries relating to the residential service, please contact us.

Cover image: The cover image of Norrie playing the Non-Specified-Gender Card is by Edd Aragon, whose blog appears at <http://eddaragon.blogspot.com>. The image is reproduced with the kind permission of the artist and first appeared in print form and online in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on June 6, 2013. *Polare* and the Gender Centre express their gratitude.

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Having a MENTOR has changed my life
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July-September 2013

No. 96

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DEADLINE

for submissions to the next
edition of *Polare* is the
eighth of September 2013

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THE FINE PRINT

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Editorial - Katherine Cummings



Katherine

I am not normally one to write encomiums, or should that be encomia(?) but for Norrie I will make an exception. I first came to know Norrie as norrie-mAy-welby when I was standing for the Democrats as a declared transgender in the 1998 Federal

election. I stood in the seat of Grayndler, that encompasses Marrickville and Stanmore and various other suburbs in that part of the world.

I will add in passing that my Labor Party opponent was Anthony Albanese who had not had to go to preferences for a long time, and didn't have to on this occasion either. He romped in, and I would like to say that he never played the gender card, far less the transgender card. He treated me with courtesy when we encountered each other and even invited me to share a platform he had organised for a Fair Day in Marrickville, encouraging me to tell the gathered populace what the Democrat policies were.

But this editorial is not about me, nor about Anthony Albanese, but about Norrie. Norrie turned up at a Grayndler Democrat Branch meeting and volunteered to help with all the dreary work of door-knocking and pamphleteering and generally helping my Quixotically hopeless campaign. Norrie was tireless and accomplished an amazing amount of work in her vivid and energetic way.

I admire Norrie, who takes part in marches, sit-ins, public appearances and so on for many, many highly laudable causes. I have seen Norrie on television and in person taking back the City by way of Martin Place; marching for Equal Marriage; defending the rights of asylum seekers and refugees; protesting police violence and even popping up in an Andrew Denton audience and defending sex work with charm and good humour.

In addition to all the public causes that Norrie espouses there has also been, for a number of years, an ongoing, persistent campaign to

recognise Norrie formally as a person with an unspecified gender. Norrie takes the view that neither male nor female is an appropriate gender designation.

Norrie's own version of this struggle appears on page seven and eight. By the way, if the literary style of the above seems clunky it is because I kept falling into the trap of using gender related pronouns and having to co back and wade through some pretty sticky circumlocution to avoid them. As John Cleese (or Basil Fawly) might have said in a slightly different context, "I think I got away with it ... I didn't mention the gender...".

The English language has the problem of never having encountered Norrie before and the only pronouns available to us are "he", "she" and "it". "He" and "she" are clearly out of bounds and "it" has the connotation of "neither" which is not the same thing at all as "unspecified" and carries some negative baggage since those of who have crossed the gender divide often encounter it used as a derogatory attack on our femininity or masculinity, whichever we are currently espousing.



Norrie

I am aware that attempts have been made to invent new pronouns for the modern world, but there are too many variations in these invented words and some of them already mean something in different contexts (e.g. "shim"). The English language, which is as close to a religion as I am likely to have from now on (having given up chess) doesn't work that way and we are going to need a lot more consensus on usage of these desperate neologisms before I will use them with any peace of mind.

We not only have Norrie's account of the long struggle to achieve recognition as a person of unspecified gender in this issue but also a piece

by one of her lawyers, Emily Christie, who gives the legal viewpoint in a piece that starts on page twenty-two.

Norrie is a vibrant, intelligent, energetic and thoroughly worthwhile person. I have never heard Norrie utter a malicious word, although the vocabulary employed is often colourful. Norrie is a talented singer (and possibly guitar player as I have found a photo of Norrie clutching a guitar although I have never been present at a performance) as well as an articulate and engaging speaker.

The hand-drawn Christmas cards I sometimes receive from Norrie are always quirky and humorous, as well as packing a punch.

If Norrie had lived in Jerusalem at the same time as Jesus I think there would have been a lot more hucksters' tables overturned in the Temple.

Of course we don't agree on everything. As noted above, Norrie is religious whereas I am not only irreligious, I am anti-religious. But that does not prevent my listening to Norrie's arguments with respect. Norrie is a person worth listening to and the exuberance and energy with which a range of interesting arguments are presented are a revelation and an entertainment in themselves.

Well, done, Norrie (apparently Norrie is the official name although I am assured the name norrie-mAy-welby will be retained for artistic purposes).

Of course, even when Norrie's credentials are established as person of unspecified gender, this will not be the end of the saga. There are all kinds of ramifications that will need to be examined and ripples in calm surface of society engendered by Norrie's casting of the first stone will continue to affect social mores for some time to come.

All legislation that differentiates between genders, or insists on strict observance of the

binary will be affected. Emily Christie draws attention to the Marriage Act. Will Norrie be allowed to marry a man or a woman, or will neither of the currently recognised genders be available? The Intersex people with "X" rating on their passports, birth certificates etc. are not allowed to marry and they protest against this, following the re Kevin ruling

What is needed is a Parliamentary Working Group to examine the effects of future recognition of revised classifications of gender on existing laws and regulations.

I believe that regulations will be harder to control than laws, as many regulations are made at local levels, to deal with what are seen as local problems.

To the best of my knowledge, for instance, there is no law prohibiting men from using

women's toilets and *vice versa* but there are probably regulations imposed by local authorities, and these will need to be dealt with, first by a blanket law that forbids discrimination of this type, and second, by enforcement of that law when occasions arise that lead to discrimination based on an assumed right to separate genders according to appearances and a binary convention past its due date.

APOLOGY

This issue of *Polare* will be late. Every issue seems to be late, but the reasons are never the same for consecutive issues (I refuse to use the moronic phrase "back to back" in this context).

I was on track to having Issue 96 out at the beginning of July when I was advised that my heart was murmuring, which sounded quite charming until I found out that it meant there was a malfunction in the machinery.

There followed some tedious testing with sticky patches stuck to various parts of my anatomy in order to carry information to a mighty computer while I ran, like an oversized (*way oversized*) hamster on a treadmill.



... and Norrie again

Then I was told I needed an angiogram and possibly a stent. For those of you who don't know, a stent is a little tube of stainless steel mesh with a balloon inside it. It is fed up an artery to the point identified by the angiogram as a blockage and the balloon is then inflated, pushing the stent outwards and enlarging the constricted part of the artery. The balloon is collapsed and withdrawn and lo and behold! a functioning heart!

I was admitted to the hospital toward the end of June for my angiogram etc. and was interested to find that I was to be awake throughout and could actually watch proceeding on a large television screen (black and white, not colour, boo!).

Unfortunately I bent their stent, or I kinked their link, I'm not sure which, and the stent had to be withdrawn and I was despatched to my ward for the remainder of the night.

The stent and angiogram tube had gone in through my femoral artery (in the groin) which resulted in the world's gaudiest bruise. I feel I should be known for the time being as the Woman With The Rainbow Groin. The following week I was readmitted and went through the process again. This time I managed to bend the cannula they tried to put into the back of my hand (I must be eating too much spinach, which is easy because any amount of spinach is too much spinach). The stents, however, worked perfectly and they inserted two of them into my aorta.

Which is a long-winded and even prolix way of apologising for my lateness ... again. At least you know that now I have a good (or at least a functioning) heart. I will try to live up to it.

Katherine



STOP PRESS AND BAD NEWS

I have just been informed by an email from the Anti-Discrimination Board that the Attorney General intends to appeal the result of the Supreme Court decision to the High Court.

What on earth possesses them to persist in this pointless pursuit of the binary gender model? Admittedly society will be affected when the

binary model goes, but society was always going to be affected by the developing recognition of gender diversity and laws have been modified to allow transgenders to be legally recognised in their affirmed genders and laws have been changed to permit Intersex people to have their birth certificates and passports modified to reflect their status.

I was tempted to pull Norrie's article and Emily Christie's piece from this issue, and re-write my editorial, but I won't. I leave them as a record of what might have been and what will be, when sanity, compassion and respect for human rights become the rule rather than the exception. KC

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>

and sign up to our low-volume mailing list
For more information visit our website

www.sageaustralia.org

SAGE - campaigning for your rights!

A Brief History of X by Norrie

In some ways this case started back in 1991, when a group of gender and sex diverse people came together to form the Transgender Lobby Coalition.

Back then, 'transgender' was not legally defined, though 'transsexual' was medically defined, but the group didn't want to be bound or excluded by a single definition of sex or gender status. Our commonality was that we were persecuted for not fitting into the presumed truth of binary sex and gender conformity. We lobbied to have sex and gender diverse people protected from discrimination, and allowed to have legal documents that reflected their actual identity, like everyone else, whether or not it matched what had been put on a birth certificate decades earlier.



Norrie

Clover Moore, then MP for the inner city State electorate of Bligh, was the first to introduce transgender law reform into the Parliament. Since she was an independent MP, and not allied with either major party, this bill lapsed when the Parliament rose for elections. But it was now on the notice paper, metaphorically, and TLC lobbyists Aidy Griffin and Nadine Stransen worked with Greens MLC Ian Cohen and Labor Deputy Premier Andrew Refshauge to re-introduce the Transgender Anti-Discrimination and other Acts Amendment Bill of 1996. I was consulted over the wording of the proposed legislation, but I was more a support person to the main lobbyists Aidy and Nadine, who were invited to help Ian draft his Second Reading speech, which was later used in court in my case to interpret the amended Births Death and Marriages Act.

The vital clause said "a person who has undergone surgery to correct or eliminate ambiguity" would then be recognised as whatever sex they are now. It was big enough to drive a truck through. I just didn't know that I would end up being that truck.

A dozen years later, I was with the steering committee of SAGE (Sex and Gender

Education) Australia, the current national lobby group for the rights of people of sex or gender diversity, when the spokesperson Tracie O'Keefe asked me if I'd like to apply for a Recognition of Details certificate stating my sex as it is, which, in terms of male and female, is non-specific.

Following the Australian Human Rights Commission report luridly titled *Sex Files* (consultations about sex and gender diversity), we had been told by the Federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship that it would issue a passport with sex status X for Unspecified or Non-Specific or Not Stated if there was supporting State documentation (that is, Birth Certificate, or the equivalent for people not born in NSW, a Recognition of Details Certificate).

I went to the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, but they weren't sure they could help me, and I was quite distressed initially at what seemed like bureaucratic naysaying. But, after one officer spoke to his boss and she spoke to her boss, they said they could and would help me.

They wanted a copy of my Citizenship certificate, so I went to the Federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship, where they said they could help if I had proof of living at the same address for every month in the last three years. One phone bill or electricity bill for every month. I fumed and stressed and went back with a mountain of paper and got the damn certificate copy. I think I began the process in November 2008, but it was March 2009 before it was complete, after much paperwork and to-ing and fro-ing and doctors' certificates and faxes questioning the doctors' certificates and reissuing of the doctors' certificates and finally acceptance of the doctors' certificates, followed by a week to upgrade the computer programme at the Registry.

Finally I received the certificate stating my sex as Not Specified, with a cover letter signed by

Issue Ninety-Six

the Registrar himself stating the process was now complete and final. Finally.

Tracie advised me to keep quiet about it for a little while, since the certificate arrived the day before the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade, and there would be little room for any news in the mainstream media for anything else that was “queer”. I duly kept my counsel but smiled particularly radiantly as I marched in that parade. One month later, the story was on the front cover of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. One working day later, there was a phone call from the Registrar to advise it had all been a mistake. File notes later revealed there were public queries, and a legal opinion obtained by the Solicitor General (effectively further up the hierarchy than the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages) stated that the certificate issued had not in fact been issued, because it could not have been.

Lawyer David Shoebidge took my case as his last one before taking up his seat in the State Parliament as a Greens Member of the Legislative Council. He helped me appeal to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, which bounced the case along for a couple of years and two appeals, I can't tell you why, it was too convoluted for me to follow. While that was happening, Kevin Rudd as Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, changed the passport rules so that one only needed supporting medical evidence to get X as the sex. I already had the doctors' letters, so I got an X on my passport in 2011.

Yay, Kevin Eleven!

Meanwhile, back at the Administrative Decisions Tribunal hearing, when I tried to make my submission orally, they scrambled and said they wanted copies of my notes, rather than listening to the speech the notes had been prepared to support.

The Crown Solicitor's team representing the respondent (the Registrar of BDM) had thought I was a garden variety transsexual, covered by clause A which was about changing to “the

opposite sex”, and panicked when I cited clause B, which applied to people who have surgery to correct or eliminate ambiguity.

The Crown team asked for proceedings to stop while they consulted a man in a grey suit sitting at the back of the court.

The Administrative Decisions Tribunal insisted sex could only be male or female, so with the *pro bono* assistance of law firm DLA Piper, advice from barristers Alister Abadee and Geoffrey Watson SC (who was unable to represent me in court because he became too busy prosecuting the shenanigans of the State ALP at ICAC), and court representation by John Howard's Solicitor General, barrister David Bennett QC, we took the case to the Supreme Court of NSW in November 2012.



After a long wait of six months, we went back to the court for the issuing of the Judgment.

“The appeal is allowed, the decision of the tribunal is set aside, the matter is referred back to the tribunal, the respondent pays the costs of the appellant.”

It took me a few moments to work out that this probably meant we had won. And now, it's all over bar the shouting. The barrier to legal non-binary identity has been seen as the legal fiction it always was.

Thank you to all who helped make this happen, in particular DLA Piper's Emily Christie, Samantha Butt and Nicholas Patrick, barristers Alister Abadee, Geoffrey Watson and David Bennett, activists/lobbyists Tracie O'Keefe, Aidy Griffin, and Nadine Stransen, past and present Members of Parliament Clover Moore, Ian Cohen, Andrew Refshauge and David Shoebidge, and all my friends who supported and inspired me and put up with my varying moods through this trial.



“I was filling out the form
and it said ‘Tick ONE box:
male OR female!’”

Talk to someone
who gets it...



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BBV (Blood Borne Viruses) on the HPE (National Health and Physical Education) Curriculum

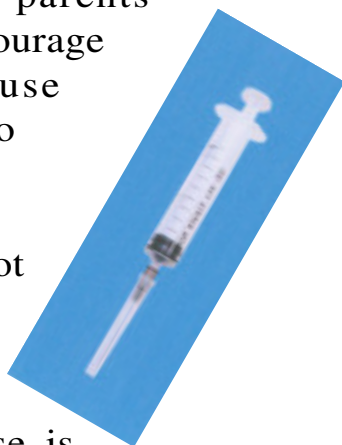
If you're a parent, uncle, aunt, sister, brother of a young person, it is easy to understand why blood-borne virus education at school is so important.

While generally parents don't want to encourage their kids to use drugs, they also know that kids will be kids. What they may not know is that the average age for initiation into injecting drug use is nineteen years of age.

Without proper knowledge of how to stay safe, young people who start injecting are at serious risk of infection with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

C me Community Advocates across NSW are currently campaigning for BBV in HPE (Blood Borne Viruses in the National Health and Physical Education curriculum) to ensure viral hepatitis education is included on the National Health and Physical Education curriculum which will be taught in every public school in NSW.

Hepatitis NSW has made a written submission on the draft curriculum and has encouraged a number of other organisations to make formal submissions. They believe that the



draft curriculum does not include sufficient information to teach students and young people about blood awareness, and more specifically about blood-borne viruses like hep B, hep C and HIV/AIDS.

Hepatitis NSW is also using Twitter as the newest weapon in the online advocacy arsenal. C me community Advocates have been provided with a book to guide them in using this new advocacy tool as well as a list of suggested Tweets for the campaign BBV on the HPE.

The Guide to Tweeting for C me



Hep C virus

Campaigning and a list of suggested tweets will be loaded onto the C me website, www.hep.org.au/c-me for anyone else who would like to be involved in the campaign.

Reprinted from The Champion, newsletter of the Hepatitis NSW C me project. Edition 3, May 2013

C me WANTS YOU!

Become a member of Hepatitis NSW and join the movement to achieve a world free of viral hepatitis

C me - Community action on hep C

News Items of Interest

RADFEM RISEUP 2013 CONFERENCE BARRED FROM MEETING PLACE IN TORONTO, ONTARIO FOR BEING ANTI-TRANS

The Radfem Riseup organisation of radical feminists has been banned from holding its 2013 conference at the Beaver Hall Gallery in Toronto, after complaints were received that the conference was non-trans-inclusive. The conference, organised by a group who are allied with Deep Green Resistance that calls for the abolition of industrial civilisation and a return to “natural” living. The radical wing of this organisation believes that gender is used as a caste system to oppress women and would like to eliminate the concept of gender entirely.

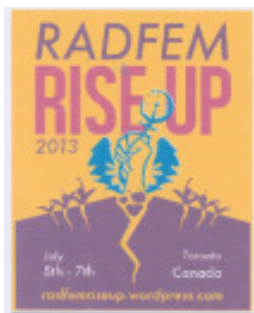
The group has been criticised in the past for allowing only womyn-born-womyn to participate and for writings and speeches by its leaders that maintain that transwomen are not women. They profess to being sympathetic towards transwomen but that they disagree on the definition of gender and therefore have different aims and priorities.

One of their blogs states that “Genderists think gender is an identity, an internal set of feeling people might have. Radical feminists think gender is a caste system, a set of material conditions into which one is born. Radical feminists are critical of gender itself. We are not gender reformists - we are gender abolitionists.

Without the socially constructed gender roles that form the basis of patriarchy, all people would be free to dress, behave and love others in whatever way they wished, no matter what kind of body they had.”

MICHAEL FERNANDEZ,, DRUG AND ALCOHOL WORKER, HONOURED

Drug and Alcohol worker, Michael Fernandez, has been awarded the Order of Australia for more than twenty years work on the prevention of communicable diseases such as hepatitis C.

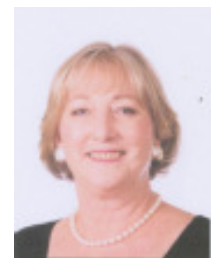


SEX DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT BILL PASSED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Discrimination Act has at long last been amended to include LGBTI people who will have the same protections against discrimination as anyone else, including the much-discussed removal of the exemptions that allowed religious organisations to discriminate against the aged in care facilities (see also p.24).

The religious exemption was opposed in the Senate, led by George Brandis who even threatened to remove the support of the Opposition to the entire Bill if it was not amended by removing the religious exemption, claiming it violated the freedom of religion.

Liberal Senator Sue Boyce defied Coalition policy who said that she didn't think “religious organisations can have it both ways. They cannot say, ‘we don't discriminate ... but we don't want any legislation that affects the way we treat people.’” She crossed the floor and voted in favour of removal of religious exemptions, thus allowing the vote to move to the Lower House, where, despite opposition from Liberal and National Party members, it passed into law.



**Senator
Sue Boyce**

MALAYSIAN LEGISLATOR HIRES TRANSGENDER AS POLITICAL SECRETARY

Teh Yee Cheu, a Malaysian assemblyman has hired a transwoman, Hezreen Shaik Daud, 33, to assist in gathering data and attempting to lower the social stigma associated with transgender. Hezreen admits to feeling nervous but is looking forward to the challenge. She states that even when transgenders are qualified they are often turned down because of his or her status. Teh announced the appointment on Wednesday 10 July with top aims including accessibility to health care, to employment and equality in schools and hospitals.



**Hezreen
Shaik
Daud**

Speaking Personally by Marika

Many of us share a history of finally arriving at the time when we faced the reality of our true gender and the consequent realisation that, whatever decision we took to do something about the situation it was going to be painful in terms of our future relationships with partners, family, friends and colleagues.

In common with many of you, this certainly proved to be so in my experience, especially in view of the fact that I'd been married with children for some 38 years.

Furthermore, at the time I was living in a part of the country where fundamental, conservative Christian values are, to this day, the foundation of many people's lives.

In turning my life around I hurt many people who'd known, trusted and respected me over many years. This was especially true in the case of my lovely wife, my children and grandchildren, the last-named for their entire lives.

Although, by and large, most people took it much better than I'd expected, it was inevitable that those closest to me, my family, would feel betrayed and angry. This manifested itself in attempts to use the law to stop me. When they failed, their only recourse was to banish me.

The point of this snippet of personal history is that, whatever negative reactions we may face from people we've hurt, it was my decision that led to it. I refuse to be angry at those who fail to understand me. I certainly understand *them*. I can't see myself as victim. It is they who are the victims.

Over the last couple of years I've listened to numerous tales of rejection and humiliation. Many of them heart-rending but, by and large, related in terms of matter-of-fact resignation or expressions of a dogged determination to make the best of things, no matter how challenging they may be. There's mostly a robust refusal to play the 'victim'. It's all a matter of

attitude. What I find sad, however, is to hear some individuals repeating, over and over, their tales of woe and injustice to anyone prepared to listen. Sometimes to the extent that their story and their identity become almost indistinguishable.

I do realise of course, that having said all this, you could be excused for concluding that,

perhaps, what I'm actually expressing is a degree of guilt for putting my loved ones through all the drama associated with my 'coming out' and subsequent reassignment. Well, it's not. I did what I *had* to do.

There were two options and I chose life. Admission of guilt, I believe, would simply have provided the excuse to avoid informed action. A way of buying time out of the pressing need to make some clear choices. A weakness of character.

Besides, I also happen to believe that regret is invariably an awful waste of energy. It's only good for wallowing in...

Isn't it strange though, that, within our ranks, the loudest voices protesting injustice, in terms of acceptance by the wider community, tend at the same time to behave in ways almost guaranteed to draw negative attention. I don't think it's simply the volume of these voices, but rather their insistence that we're somehow deserving of special consideration.

I don't think so!!! I'm sure the slogan 'Out and Proud' was never intended to encourage defiantly anti-social behaviour or a total disregard for generally accepted norms of public decorum.

It's so maddeningly frustrating to have my personal progress in terms of mainstream acceptance as just another woman, undermined by attention-seeking or demanding individuals. I'm not a 'goddess', a 'princess', or anything more than simply someone trying to maintain a



Marika

lifestyle that I've worked very hard to achieve, and will continue to work at.

My aim is to merge so seamlessly that my gender history is not an issue. I know that sounds unrealistic. Maybe it is, but I remember reading somewhere: *"If you think you can, you're right. If you think you can't, you're right."* In short, it's all about self-confidence. To use another quote, attributed to Anita Roddick, the BodyShop founder: "If you feel gorgeous, you'll look gorgeous." In other words, all the finery, make-up and heels are pointless if you can't wear them with confidence. On the other hand, if you do have the confidence, if you're 'comfortable in your own skin', maybe props are mostly unnecessary.

In fact, it's often the props themselves; the precipitous heels, the skirts that are too tight or too short skirt, the extravagant 'bling' or the 'pancake' make-up, that scream out for negative attention.

Having said this, however, those of you who've read my earlier columns will recall my expressing a personally-felt obligation to present always in one's true gender in such a way as to avoid causing confusion and social embarrassment for others.

But what's so hard, I wonder, about simply aiming to be a nice, modest girl or woman. Heaven knows, there are enough of them out there. Just look and learn....

In the process of planning an impending trip to Indonesia with girlfriends, a travel-piece by Gillian Kendall in the May edition of LOTL magazine caught my eye on a related subject.

To paraphrase, she advises that, when travelling alone in predominantly Muslim or Catholic parts of the world, it's important to err on the side of modesty. She goes on to suggest that if you have some objection to skirts, you should at least carry a scarf as a wrap or head-cover, especially when entering holy places. To quote her: "Dress like the local grandmothers."

No problem for this 'granny'.

She also advises that in such sensitive locations, the use of sunglasses to avoid eye-contact will go some way to avoiding being harassed in the

street..... I'd recommend Gillian's interesting article to anyone planning an overseas trip. Anyway, having got all of that off my (now nicely developing) chest, I feel compelled to wind up on a really positive note.

I don't seem to have the time to watch much television lately, but I have managed to tune in to ABC2 occasionally, and I've been surprised and delighted to catch a number of programs dealing with gender-identity issues on that channel.

I say delighted because what struck me was the quality, sensitivity and honest integrity with which each was presented. The three that immediately come to mind were 'The Boy who was Born a Girl', 'Head First' and 'My Transgender Summer'..

All very good and honest. I really liked the story of the young F to M. The teenager was delightfully candid about his feelings, his relationships with friends and fellow students and the difficulties around leaving school as a girl and returning the following year as a boy. It was the single mother however who brought a tear to my eye. Although clearly troubled by the impending loss of a pretty daughter, her stoic determination to make her child's transition as seamless as possible was truly heart-rending but, at the same time, heart-warming. Lucky child.....

Love,

Marika

PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE

Unless your situation involves a serious emergency, please remember to make an appointment before arriving at the Gender Centre.

The GC is understaffed and although we sympathise with your needs we are often fully committed and the time taken by you is often time taken from someone else.

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PARENTS OF TRANSGENDER
CHILDREN

The Gender Centre hosts 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. A clinical psychologist will co-facilitate these meetings.

A light supper will be available.


Contact Liz or Anthony on 9569 2366

In Plain English, please!

The Australian Government recently issued its *Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender*. A draft version came out and everyone was encouraged to make corrections and suggestions. The final draft has now appeared and it seems that those of us who bothered to look closely at the text might have spent the time more wisely.

Page 2, para.7 says that “all Australian Government departments and agencies will treat all people with dignity and respect. The word “all” is unnecessary. There is a footnote on the same page full of solecisms. Para. 3 of the footnote mentions that “citizenship certificates do not need to be amended for sex and gender...”. This is true as citizenship certificates do not mention gender. The statement is made that “A letter from a medical practitioner certifying that the person has had, or is receiving, appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition to a new gender, is intersex and does

Polare page 16
July-September 2013



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not identify with the gender assigned to them at birth, is acceptable evidence of gender identity.” This should clearly have an “or” interpolated after “new gender” and should then read “are acceptable forms of evidence for a revised gender identity. The terms “change of sex” and “sex reassignment surgery” also appear. Gender can be changed from the one assigned to us (or, more accurately) we can affirm our gender to what we always knew it was. There is no such thing as a change of sex ... not yet, anyway.

There are grammatical errors (“different to” instead of “different from” and the use of “them” and “their” to apply to the singular number). The silliest usages of all are on page 10 where the term “social footprint” is invented and where we are told that people who are transgender are born “exclusively” male or female. Well, no, most of us had a physiology in one gender and a mind/personality in the other.

Social footprint? What meaningless, moronic jargon!
Katherine Cummings




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A confidential free service for people
with gender issues (*Ask for the
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Sharps Containers

Pill Filters	Syringes
Condoms	1ml, 2.5ml,
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or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr
advice, information and referral service. Sydney
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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
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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



FTM Australia

2013

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](http://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

by Kelly Glanney

The successful launch of the Carmen Rupe Memorial Trust earlier this year is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when transgender people and supporters come together to work in common cause. The CRMT's official launch at Slide received national media coverage, including an eight minute piece on the ABC's 7.30 Report (<http://bit.ly/VSm dif>) and picked up the 2013 Mardi Gras Award for “Best Community Event”.

Held at Slide in Darlinghurst on February as part of the 2013 Sydney Mardi Gras Festival, our gala event saw a wonderful outpouring of love for Carmen and hope of a better future for the Trans* community generally, with over 150 guests enjoying an amazing array of entertainment provided by a star studded cast from all over Australia and NZ. Footage of the many incredible performances from the night can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/1ck5sRM>.

Carmen's niece and Founding CRMT Trustee Chanette Hemopo was joined on stage by her mother Tess, Carmen's closest living relative, to share our vision for the CRMT as we set out to honour and build upon Carmen's legacy, with Tess also sharing some wonderful stories from Carmen with our many guests.

Among the many other wonderful tributes on the night, Sydney Mardi Gras Board Member Paul Savage spoke eloquently of the importance of Carmen's life in the broader struggle for LGBTI rights.

After the launch, Team CRMT worked tirelessly several days building our “My Polynesian Love” themed float for the 2013 Mardi Gras Parade the following weekend. Complete with Polynesian tribal drummers and an extremely colourful 100 person marching group, we wove our way up Oxford Street on 2 March. This truly was a magic moment.

A number of our marchers shed tears of joy, over powered by the rapturous response from the general public. The dozens of CRMT volunteers who generously donated their time to this project were richly rewarded a few weeks later when our float received a Gold Mardi Gras Award for “Show Stopping Parade Entry”. A year earlier our 2012 Carmen' Sea of Love float had been

nominated for a Silver Mardi Gras Award, but we didn't dare to dream we'd go one better this year.

Speaking about the successful launch, CRMT Advisory Board Member Kelly Glanney says “It's still early days, but Carmen's family and our Trustees are extremely impressed by the positive energy and boundless love our volunteers have brought to this project thus far. We've achieved so much in a short time and with few resources.

Our launch program included an experimental multi-media theatre piece for “Queer Thinking” at the Seymour Centre and a performance on the main stage at Mardi Gras Fair Day featuring Melbourne-based musician and Trans Activist Paige Phoenix and Sydney drag chanteuse Koko D'vayne - we also ran a stall at Fair Day. Even better, we've nearly finished renovating the CRMT's new HQ - the very same community centre in Surry Hills which Carmen ran for ten years prior to her passing. We hope to have the HQ up and running before the end of the year”.

Sydney Mayor Clover Moore seemed to capture the mood of the launch and its aftermath best when she said, “Carmen Rupe was an icon for Sydney's Transgender community and a tireless advocate for GLBT rights. She was a quiet achiever who spent decades as a volunteer with many organisations who provided support to some of our city's most vulnerable people. I knew Carmen and was saddened by her passing. She will be missed by the people she touched and the community of she was such a strong part.

It is heartening that, in accordance with her wishes, the Carmen Rupe Memorial Trust has been established to raise awareness of some of the issues faced by our GLBT community. This is a fitting tribute to someone who dedicated so much of their life to helping others”

As the CRMT looks forward to building on our early success, we're inviting all transgender people and our many allies to become directly involved and share with us the joy of being part of this important project.

CRMT Contacts: Ph: 0452 454 965

email: kmg@carmenrupe.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/carmenrupe.memorialtrust

1.30pm		Feb 4, 25 Women's Group	Mar 25 Women's Group	Apr 29 Women's Group	May 27 Women's Group	June 24 Women's Group	July 29 Women's Group	Aug 26 Women's Group	Sep 30 Women's Group	Oct 28 Women's Group	Nov 25 Women's Group		
1.30pm	Jan 10 Over 55s	Feb 14 Over 55s	Mar 14 Over 55s	Apr 11 Over 55s	May 9 Over 55s	June 13 Over 55s	July 11 Over 55s	Aug 8 Over 55s	Sep 12 Over 55s	Oct 10 Over 55s	Nov 14 Over 55s		TBA
5.00pm		Feb 20 Youth Group	Mar 20 Youth Group	Apr 17 Youth Group	May 15 Youth Group	June 19 Youth Group	July 17 Youth Group	Aug 21 Youth Group	Sep 18 Youth Group	Oct 16 Youth Group	Nov 20 Youth Group		
6.00pm	Jan 4 FTM Connect	Feb 1 FTM Connect	Mar 1 FTM Connect	Apr 5 FTM Connect	May 3 FTM Connect	June 7 FTM Connect	Jul 5 FTM Connect	Aug 2 FTM Connect	Sep 6 FTM Connect	Oct 4 FTM Connect	Nov 1 FTM Connect		Dec 6 FTM Connect
6.00pm	Jan 14 Parents' Group	Feb 11 Parents' Group					July 8 Parents' Group						



The Carmen Rupe Memorial Trust

The Carmen Rupe Memorial Trust (CRMT) is inviting transpeople with a passion for making a difference to join their Advisory Committee.

The CRMT is being established as a registered charity to further Carmen's interest in GLBTI education and social justice through philanthropy and community service. We are looking for talented, motivated people happy to work in a positive team environment to build an organisation capable of achieving great things in Carmen's memory.

The Advisory Committee will provide the Trustees with input on policy and strategy, will lead or coordinate projects initiated by the Trust, and will ensure the CRMT's decision-making processes are informed by the wider community through ongoing consultation. They are especially interested in hearing from members of the transgendered community, the wider GLBTI community and the Maori and Pacific Islander communities.

Former Gender Centre Counsellor, Elizabeth Riley, one of CRMT's foundation trustees, says:

"We're setting out to build a charitable organisation that will educate and empower transgendered people to take greater control of their own lives while helping others, ultimately to educate and engage the wider society in support of all gender-diverse individuals.

For further information please contact Kelly on 0452 454 965

Adolescence by Matt Kailey

Everyone's sex drive is different, and everyone responds differently to this particular biological force. So, although I am posting this in response to a question from one of the readers of my column, I need to make it clear that my experience with testosterone is *my* experience with testosterone. I have heard similar stories from other trans men, but they will have to speak for themselves.

One of the most interesting things about the effects of testosterone and trans me is that we have something else to compare it to. Non-trans men do not. And non-trans women do not (which is why I wrote a column on "It's the testosterone: what straight women should know").

When I started testosterone a dozen years ago, I expected my sex drive to increase. The "horror" stories are part of transman lore, passed down from generation to generation as we all gear up for male adolescence, no matter how old we are, and take out a line of credit at the adult toy store.

And it did increase, within about four days of my first shot, and I basically squirmed a lot for two years before I got used to it. But I was planning for that. Here are the things that took me by surprise:

> It became very focused on one thing - the goal, the prize, the end. That doesn't mean that I wasn't able to "make love". What it does mean is that there was a madness in my method, because it was goal-oriented. There was a light at the end of the tunnel. There was a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. There was an unguarded hoop just waiting for a slam dunk - score!

> It became very visual. I saw it, I wanted it - whatever it was. This was a new experience for me, because, in the past, I had not been aroused so much by pictures and body parts (or pictures of body parts) as I had been by words - erotic descriptions, stories, and things said to me.

> It became very visceral - instinctual - with a need to take care of it. It had very little to do

with romance, or even an attraction that made sense intellectually. You're hungry, you eat. There was a matter-of-factness about it, especially when I was by myself. Hmmm ... peanut butter sandwich sounds good. Okay, done. Let's move on.

And that was how it changed. And I need to add some caveats here.

The first is to remind everyone that this was *my* experience. I cannot speak for anyone else.

The second is to point out that there are, no doubt, both men and women who have experienced or do experience something very similar. We can speak in general terms about the differences between men and women (and I personally believe, in general terms, that there *are* differences). But those generalities cannot be assumed to apply to all individual men and women.

The third is to totally refute the claims that have been made over the years that "all men are rapists if given the opportunity" and similar accusations. I think this is utter nonsense, as is the idea that men "can't control themselves".

And last, these things change. Either they eventually become less intense or we adjust. We are going through a male adolescence, and we survive and come out the other side as adults.

And unless we are truly fourteen (I was 42), we have a little bit of maturity and the intelligence to know what's happening to us and how to handle it. This maturity and intelligence is what allows most men and women, trans and non-trans, to have loving adult relationships that succeed on many levels.

You only go through adolescence once (or, if you transition, twice) so hopefully you enjoyed yours.

Now, have that peanut butter sandwich and move on.



Matt Kailey, first adolescence, 8th Grade

Reprinted with permission from Matt Kailey's excellent weekly interactive blog, Tranifesto, which can be found at tranifesto.com

Melbourne 2013 by Edwina Keelan

Aged care was top of the agenda at the Health In Difference Conference held at the Novotel Hotel, St Kilda from 18-20 April 2013. Kathy Noble was one of the principal speakers and had helped to produce a booklet for the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing as a guideline for aged care facilitators and deliverers/trainers in respite and aged care facilities including home-based community care.

The booklet, titled *Welcome Neighbour*, encourages equal treatment for all. The Foreword deals with GLBTI and presenting in public; and with trans issues, drug addiction and intersex issues; and caring for the person and for the transgender ageing network and the conclusion is about GLBTI who come into care in the aged care system.

Beyond Blue played an important role in the Conference (“Stop, Think, Respect”) and presented a well designed poster showing six individuals and their stories.

Some who feature in this campaign were speakers at the Conference and were active community participants at some of the lectures and discussions, which were about sex-workers and sex and intersex and trans* and the anti-violence project being run by ACON.

HEADSPACE were also at the Conference, offering resources and offering those in need telephone counselling. The help was generally friendly and confidential, and inclusive language was emphasised. Keywords such as “equality” were emphasised in preference to “gay” when discussing topics such as marriage rights in Australia.

Suicide Prevention Australia played an important part in the Conference.

Melbourne on the 24-26 July at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins will be another chance to participate: learn-experience-approach the discussion of suicide. A few universities from

around Australia were also represented at the Conference.

The effects of sexual orientation identity disclosure and discrimination against the wellbeing of GLBTI employees was also dealt with, and workshops about sex workers and sex were also on the agenda.

Health professionals, clinicians, sexologists, psychologists, doctors ... all participated in discussions and workshops.

Living independently at home was also on the agenda and there were discussions on health and ageing and a telephone counselling service targeting men was also foreshadowed.

Val’s Cafe, the Safe Schools Coalition Victoria, Webwise, Rainbow Network, Victoria Training, Gay Lesbian Health Victoria ... all these are dedicated GLBTI health initiatives. In other States Queensland and Sister Girls are working on major projects improving health outcomes

among sister girls.

Victoria is doing excellent work to improve the health outcomes of GLBTI.

A smoke-free workshop was also set up although a lot of talk about hotels and clubs being smoke-free was less convincing than many of the topics discussed at the Conference.

The emphasis was on inclusiveness and the need for accreditation and authority to back up such moves was also talked about.

There were a number of surveys conducted at the Conference and the results of these surveys will be of great interest when they are published.



Edwina Keelan at the Health in Difference Conference

Edwina Keelan is a Disability Services Employee, a member of the All-Nations Housing Association Co-op, and a Member of the TAFE Crystal Street Adult Volunteer Tutorial in Numeracy and Literacy Set Skills

The ACON Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project can be contacted on (02) 9206 2116 or Freecall 1800 063 or avp@acon.org.au

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. PO Box 386, Chermside South, QLD, 4032. Tel:(07) 3357 6361

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

Ph:0404 054 000

Email:smh101@exemail.com.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 2013 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

NOTE

For after-hours counselling contact Lifeline on 131 114 or Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service 5.30pm-10.30pm seven days on (02) 8594 9596 or 1800 105 527 www.glcsnsw.org.au

Christmas in August

The Gender Centre will hold its annual Christmas in July barbecue at the

*Joseph Sergeant Community Centre,
60 Prospect Street,
Erskineville*

on:

*Saturday 24 August
from 12 noon until 4.00pm*



The Gender Centre & Aurora Foundation present:

Transtopia 2013

gender-questioning?
gender-queer?

Transtopia is a monthly group to be held over ten months in 2013 for transgender youth between the ages of fourteen and nineteen...

It aims to provide a safe, fun space for young people to connect with others, enjoy safe activities and talk about the issues affecting the trans youth of Australia.

For information call Anthony at the Gender Centre (02) 9569 2366

Appeals Court Recognises “Sex Non-Specific” Annotation for Birth Certificates

On 31 May 2013, in a momentous ruling for sex and gender diversity, the NSW Court of Appeal held that the word “sex” is not limited to “male” or “female”, being the first court in Australia to do so and overturning an ADT Appeals Tribunal Decision in the process.

At the centre of the case is Norrie, who does not identify as male or female. Norrie was born with male sex characteristics and underwent a sex affirmation procedure. Following this, Norrie applied to the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages for a gender registration as “non-specific” under the new section of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995 (NSW) (Act) which allows persons who have undergone sex affirmation surgery to change their recorded sex. The application was initially successful but the Registrar revoked the certificate, arguing that ‘sex’ only meant “male” or “female”. This argument was upheld by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) and Appeals Panel. The NSW Court of Appeal, however, disagreed.

The judgement has been described as landmark and groundbreaking, and with good reason. This is the first time a court has recognised we do not live in a binary world of male and female. The court has not only been able to conceptualise a legally valid option outside the strict binary male and female, but also to hold that current legislation is perfectly capable of legally recognising people who do not identify as male or female.

What, then, does the decision mean?

Well, it means some things and it doesn’t mean others. However, before we go into that, a word about terminology. Throughout the judgement the court uses the phrase ‘sex identity’ when talking about Norrie’s registered sex. ‘Sex identity’ in the judgement refers to what a person’s legal sex is, as it is recorded on a birth certificate. It is not purely gender identity, nor is it purely based on a person’s physical sex characteristics, rather it is a combination of both. When it comes to birth certificates, the court

has looked at both gender identity and sex markers to determine what the ‘sex’ identity is under the legislation. To what extent gender identity or physical characteristics are relied upon will generally depend on the wording of the legislation.¹

So, back to what the judgement means.

First, the judgement relates to Birth Certificates and Detail Recognition Certificates. A birth certificate is a cardinal document and, unlike your passport or driver licence, it is the source data for your identity and is relied upon by most other legislation. Each State of Australia also recognises the other States’ certificates and so,

should a person receive a certificate stating sex ‘non specific’, this should be recognised by legislation across all States. This is what occurs with ‘male’ and ‘female’ on a certificate, so we would hope the same would occur with ‘non-specific’. The certificate can also usually be used to amend your sex on other documents and records (although in some cases a Passport can be used instead). As such, having ‘non-specific’ on your birth certificate could allow recognition as ‘non specific’ in a whole range of situations. Just how many remains to be seen.

Second, the Judgement is about a very specific, narrow, set of facts. The Judges were very clear that they were only looking at the word ‘sex’ as it relates to people who have undergone sex affirmation surgery and have applied to have their recorded sex changed. The Judges did note that the word ‘sex’ in other legislation may also be interpreted in the same way, so it is possible that the Judgement will have flow on effects and it is to be hoped that it will pave the way for others to be able to argue they, too, are part of this category, bringing me on to my next point.

Third, while it is possible that the court’s decision will be followed with reference to other parts of the Act and other legislation, it will only affect people who personally identify as something other than male or female; that is, it’s opt-in only and it takes into account gender identity. This case is the latest in a long line of



Emily Christie

policy development, law reform and court cases recognising the difference between gender identity and sex characteristics and the importance of the former with reference to legal recognition. This case does not change that history. Individuals with ambiguous sex characteristics who identify as male or female will continue to be recognised as male or female under law.

Fourth, it doesn't mean Norrie has a certificate saying sex 'non-specific' - yet. The Court of Appeal was only ruling on whether sex could mean something other than 'male' or 'female' and whether it was open to the Registrar to register Norrie's sex as non-specific'. The court answered 'yes' to both and so it's now up to the Administrative Decision Tribunal to take this ruling on and re-evaluate Norrie's application.

Finally, there are some laws where sex is quite clearly meant to be interpreted as binary, which may become problematic for Norrie and others. The most obvious is the Marriage Act. With marriage defined as being between a man and a woman, Norrie is left in a legal black hole, along with those born with intersex variations already legally recognised as neither male nor female in other jurisdictions.

The court acknowledged that there may be legislation that only allows for a binary interpretation of 'sex'. Interestingly, the court did not see this as a barrier to interpreting 'sex' as non-binary; rather, they noted that this may be an area requiring law reform, to ensure Norrie, and others who have similar problems aren't left without legal recognition or protection.

Equal recognition and protection under the law is a fundamental Human Right; but the law cannot protect you if it doesn't recognise you, it can only protect a legal fiction of you. It is imperative in such cases as these that we make the law fit the facts and not force the facts to fit the law. To have your identity, your own identity recognised in law, affords you the dignity and the respect that you deserve as a human being. In our society, it is almost trite to say that sex

and gender identity are important. It's vital we get it right.

Norrie's case is the latest development in what has been, and continues to be, a long and difficult fight for sex and gender diverse people. Victoria and Western Australia have allowed infants born with ambiguous sex characteristics to have an X on their birth certificate for a while now. In 2011 the Federal Government allowed individuals to have an X on their passport and permitted recognised transgender people to have their affirmed gender noted on the passport their affirmed gender without the need for surgery.

The Government is now expanding their Guidelines on the Recognition of Gender to all Federal Departments and Agencies, standardising the evidence required to change their gender identity on official documents. In the last few decades the Australian courts have been asked to consider a number of cases regarding sex and gender diversity. Through cases such as *AB v Western Australia* [2011] HCA 42 and *Kevin v Attorney-General (Cth)*

“...there are some laws where sex is quite clearly meant to be binary, which may become problematic ...The most obvious is the Marriage Act.” [2001] FamCA 1074; 165 FLR 404 a body of jurisprudence is slowly being built that

recognises that sex is not binary.

As I write this, Parliament is due to debate the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Bill which to protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. And so the struggle for recognition and equality continues.

Emily Christie, a Pro Bono lawyer with DLA Piper, is one of Norrie's solicitors. She is currently on secondment to the Human Rights Law Centre.

¹ While detailed discussion is not possible here, it should also be recognised that term "sex identity" itself is somewhat problematic or, at the very least, confusing for those of us very careful not to conflate the concepts of physical sex and gender identity. The appropriateness of the use expression into the future is an issue for trans, intersex and gender diverse people to grapple with and explore with policy makers and legislators.

More News Items Of Interest

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS NO LONGER TO BE GRANTED FOR PROVIDERS OF CARE FOR OLD GLBTI IN OZ

Older GLBTI people in care will be protected by the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Bill 2013.

The House of Representatives has passed the Bill which removes religious exemptions for Commonwealth-funded aged-care providers. This means that religious providers will no longer be allowed to discriminate against older LGBTI people seeking access to aged care.

The Bill was opposed by the Shadow Attorney-General, George Brandis, when it was moved in Senate.



George Brandis

The NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby have campaigned for over a decade for this revision, and the Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby said that there was a “growing body of evidence that stigma and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity are widespread within

the community and residential aged care, resulting in unmet needs for LGBTI seniors.

62 LGBTI CANDIDATES WILL RUN FOR SEATS IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF NEPAL

The head of the Blue Diamond Society, Sunil Babu Pant, a former member of the Assembly, has not yet decided if he will run in the election on November 19. One candidate, Bhumika Shrestha, said that as the political parties failed to provide proper space in the past, they had difficulties in securing proper identities.

In 2007, the Nepalese Supreme Court issued instructions to throw out all discriminatory laws and to look at same-sex marriage policies.

Nepal is deadlocked over a new constitution and has been without a legislature since May 2012. The Constituent Assembly was dissolved at that time by the then Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai. In January an official said gender neutral citizenship papers would be issued to those who do not wish to be identified as male or female.

GERMAN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BODY DEMANDS REMOVAL OF DIAGNOSIS PROCEDURE

The German Anti-Discrimination body, (Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes) has come out against the diagnosis component in gender recognition procedures as these procedures are often based in practice on the subjective views of experts and may impose expense and expense on the individuals concerned.

The Federal body also lends its support to reforms developed by trans* groups and activists which heavily criticise outdated German transsexual laws.

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSIONER URGED NOT TO ADD “TRANSGENDER” TO HUMAN RIGHTS LAWS

A dozen pastors and some parishioners argued against the addition of “transgender” to those regulations on the grounds that people who want to change their sex are abnormal and immoral.

“If a grown man or a male is allowed to enter a girl’s bathroom, that’s not normal,” said Rev. Ronald Johnson who preaches at the Grace and Truth Outreach Ministry. “Now you so confused you don’t know what you are. You’s a woman, you going into the men’s bathroom,” said Elder James Smith with the Apostolic Revival Centre. “No, I don’t respect that.”

Commissioner Sally Heyman said “There’s no words about bathrooms in this ordinance. It’s an expansion of our human rights ordinance.”

The Christian Family Coalition is one of the main opponents to the proposed expansion. Members have passed out cards against it, including one showing a threatening, transgender man looking at a girl.*

“They (Christian Family Coalition) should be ashamed of themselves, and my -- ironically it’s called the ‘Christian Family Coalition’. How un-Christian can you get to spread hate?” said Heyman.

The Christian Family Coalition didn’t comment.



[*There has never been an authenticated case. Prove me wrong. KC]

Diabetes is a lifestyle disease and YOU can do something about it!

Issue Ninety-Six

Diabetes is caused by the body's inability to produce enough insulin, or an inability to use the insulin produced.

Insulin is a chemical that is produced by the pancreas, an organ located behind the stomach. If the supply of insulin is insufficient to cope with sugar levels in the blood, then the symptoms of diabetes become noticeable. These are weight loss and loss of muscle, a constant feeling of thirst, the need to urinate frequently and a feeling of tiredness.

Diabetes is classified as Type 1 and Type 2.

Type 1 is less common than Type 2 and usually develops before the age of 40. The body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-making cells. Being affected by Type 1 usually means a lifetime of insulin injections.

Type 2 is caused by the body's inability to make insulin or it creates insulin but the body cannot use the insulin created. Type 2 is often related to obesity and is more common in older people.

Australians, because of their lifestyle, are prone to Type 2 diabetes but this does not necessarily cause the subject to lead an inferior lifestyle, and does not necessarily imply later serious health problems. Diabetes Australia provides useful information for those who suffer from diabetes on its website www.diabetesaustralia.com.au or via their information line on 1300 136 588.

Although, as mentioned above, Type 2 is the most common form (affecting 85-90% of all those with diabetes) it can be managed through the adoption of a healthy diet, the use of regular exercise and the use of medication. There is a strong genetic predisposition to Type 2 diabetes but the risk is greatly increased by lifestyle factors that result in obesity, high blood pressure and a poor diet.

Although exercise and a healthy diet are important factors in slowing the development of diabetes it is frequently the case that medication in the form of tablets or insulin injections may become necessary. Adopting the

necessary medication in good time is an important factor in slowing the onset of the disease.

The telltale risk signs of diabetes Type 2 include the following:

- Family history of diabetes
- Being past middle age (over 55 years of age)
- Being over 35 years of age and being an Aborigine or Torres Straits Islander background
- Being over 45 years of age and being overweight
- Being over 45 years of age and having high blood pressure
- Being over 35 years of age and from the Pacific Islands, Indian subcontinent or Chinese cultural background
- Being a woman who has given birth to a child over 4.5kg (9lb), or had gestational diabetes when pregnant, or had a condition known as Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome
- Being a smoker

Symptoms of Type 2 Diabetes include the following:

- Excessive thirst
- Excessive urination
- Slow healing of cuts
- Skin infections and itching
- Blurred vision
- Often feeling tired and lethargic
- Constant hunger
- Mood swings
- Dizziness
- Inability to keep weight off
- Headaches
- Leg cramps

Type 2 Diabetes is very common and should not be ignored. If you fall into any of the categories above, or if you suffer any of the symptoms ... seek advice. The longer you hide your head in the sand and fail to take action, the more serious your condition may be when you do take matters into your (and your doctor's) hands!



Outreach Worker's Column by Michelle

Hi, I'm Michelle and I'm one of the Outreach workers here at the Gender Centre. I'm pretty new to these parts, having only been at the Gender Centre for about eight months. But I've worked with the LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* & Intersex) community in different roles for the past 2 years. You could say I'm pretty passionate about building a strong and resilient community that celebrates all the colours of the rainbow (if you don't mind me getting a little bit hippy-dippy on you :)).

Every Wednesday night Birdie (the Thai-speaking outreach worker) and I fire up the GC's little blue van and visit trans* sex workers all over Sydney. We see workers in brothels, in their homes and on the streets – wherever sex workers are, we go.

We hand out free safe-sex packs and fit packs and hormone needles, but most importantly we talk to workers about anything and everything – from questions about legal stuff, to why is the industry so goddamn quiet at the moment (?!), to sexual health info, to how to deal with a client that falls in love with you, or pretty much whatever comes up.

If it's a bigger issue that we can't address there and then, we follow up with more information, referrals and more intensive support options. The workers we see are very diverse – from all

different backgrounds, and ages (including workers in their 60s), all different body shapes, and all different gender identities. No, they're not all thin, young, glamorous trans* women that pass all the time. Nor are they all drug-dependent street workers.

You'd be surprised how many people don't fit the stereotypes that we hold about the sex industry. Much like the trans* community in general, the trans* sex working community is much more than we see in the media.

Why do we do outreach? Because trans* sex workers are doubly marginalised. Not only do they experience discrimination based on their gender, but also on the basis of their profession.

Services like ours provide an opportunity for workers to not only get accurate info and work supplies, but also support.

Having said that, many trans* sex workers stand strong and fierce in the face of this adversity, and might not actually need support or advice.



Michelle

But luckily, everyone needs condoms (or gloves or lube or dams or fit packs) :). So if you're a trans* sex worker and you want us to visit you, just email me at outreacheducation@gendercentre.org.au or text me at 0408 088 331.

promises&limitations

The Centre for Social Research in Health (formerly the National Centre in HIV Social Research) invites you to the *13th Social research Conference on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Related Diseases* to be held 20-21 February 2014 at the University of NSW, Sydney.

The theme of the conferences is ***promises & limitations: biomedical treatment and prevention in the real world***. Delegates will be asked to consider how biomedical technologies shape our understanding of the treatment and prevention of blood borne viruses, illicit drug use, chronic illness and sexually transmitted infections. The conference offers an opportunity to think critically about biomedicalisation, specifically the way that it helps or challenges understandings of treatment and prevention, the promises it holds and the extent to which these promises materialise.

Registration and abstract submission open 15 July 2013. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 30 September 2013.

Over 55s Group

A Mature Person's Group

Programme July- September 2013

In the July-September quarter, rather than having a set topic for each meeting, there will be an Open Forum, which means that those present can discuss anything they wish, and/or use the time for social interaction and conversation.

Thursday 8th August 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Open Forum

Thursday 12th September 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Open Forum This group provides opportunities for the sharing of experiences and talking about our future goals as individuals.

Come and enjoy your participation in this interesting Group

Analysis of over 55 Group Questionnaires

Questionnaires were distributed and completed at several meetings. They were inserted in Polare 95 and placed on the front page of the Gender Centre website. There were no returns from Polare of the website. Seven questionnaires were distributed and completed at meetings. Of the seven people, five were women with a transgender history. There were no transmen as no transmen have attended this group.

Age distribution:

70+ 2

60-69 4

Under 60 1

Q1 Attended previously? YES 7

Q2 Would come again? Definite YES 4

Q3 Why not come again? Low attendance, other life commitments.

Q4 Priority of preferred program/activity:

First priority: Social Interaction

Second priority: Open forum with leader

Third priority: Social outing

Q5 Suggestions to encourage attendance: Invite transmen; meal outing (restaurant, club, picnic); guest speakers; volunteer as a group.

Q6 Is: 1.30pm Thursday time suitable. YES 7

Prepared by Joanne Coleman (joancol3@bigpond.com)

RPA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

24 Marsden Street, Camperdown,
NSW, 2050

PHONE: (02) 9515 1200

WHAT DOES THE SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC DO?

- Testing, treatment and counselling for sexually transmissible infections, including HIV
- Gay men's sexual health check-ups
- Sex worker health checks
- Men's and women's sexual health check-ups
- Advice on contraception
- Pregnancy testing and counselling
- Free condoms and lubricant
- Needle and syringe program and sexual health check-ups for people who inject drugs
- Hepatitis testing and vaccination
- Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU VISIT THE CLINIC FOR THE FIRST TIME?

You will be asked to fill out a registration form.

The information you give us will remain confidential and will be put in a numbered file. Keep this number and quote it for any test results and when making future appointments.

A nurse will determine whether you need to see a doctor or nurse for a medical issue or a counsellor to discuss information on sexual health, safer sex or relationship issues.

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need an appointment? *Yes, appointment is preferable.*

Do I need a Medicare card? *No, you don't need a Medicare card.*

Do I need to pay? *No, all services are free.*

Do I need a referral from a doctor? *No, simply call 9515 1200 for an appointment.*

(Interpreters available)

Sex, Gender & Sexuality Clinic

Director: Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH, ND



Doctor of Clinical Hypnotherapy
Psychotherapist
Counsellor
Sex Therapist

PACFA
ASSERT
ASOCHA

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

Hormonal & Surgical Referrals When Applicable.

Member of World Professional Association for
Transgender Health (WPATH).

Also Available: Naturopathy, Herbal Medicine
Dietitian, IPL Laser Hair Removal,
Microdermabrasion, Non-Surgical Facelift

02 9571 4333

www.tracieokeefe.com

www.healtheducationcentre.com



"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

Don't put up with it — Don't let them get away with it

STOP DISCRIMINATION

Contact the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW

Get free confidential advice

Phone (02) 9268 5544 or 1800 670 812 for people outside Sydney.

If you need an interpreter call 131 450 first. TTY 9268 5522.

Email adbcontact@agd.nsw.gov.au

Make a complaint

Visit our website at: www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb to download a complaint form.

Email complaintsadb@agd.nsw.gov.au

Change of Mailing Details?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Different Name? | <input type="checkbox"/> Different gender? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Different Address? | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't want <i>Polare</i> any more? |

My OLD details:

My New details:

Mail to: The Editor, Polare, PO Box 266, Petersham, 2049

Transgender Anti-Violence Project (TAVP)

The mission of the Transgender Anti-Violence Project is to provide education, support, referrals and advocacy in relation to violence and oppression based on gender identity.

The Project addresses all forms of violence that impact on the transgender, gender diverse and gender-questioning community, including (but not limited to) domestic violence, sexual violence, anti-transgender harassment and hate crimes.

Transphobic crimes affect many gender-diverse people in Australia each year.

The Transgender Anti-Violence Project provides a range of free, confidential services and has already helped a number of people who have experienced incidents that include verbal abuse, physical attacks, bullying, harassment and discrimination.

The TAVP needs to know about your experiences to be able to help you personally and to document the event in order to stop it from happening to others.

What can I report?

You can report anything to the TAVP. Some examples follow:



- Physical assaults
- Verbal abuse and threats
- Sexual assaults
- Stalking
- Domestic violence
- Family violence

When you make a report to the TAVP you will be assigned a support worker, to assess the nature and level of support you may require. The Project will then provide you with ongoing assistance and referral services, including support when reporting to police, counselling, legal support, court support and medical support and follow-up support.

To make a report, call the Transgender Anti-Violence Project on 9569 2366

or 1800 069 115 or report online at www.tavp.org.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:

oiaustralia@bigpond.com

or visit our website at www.oiaustralia.com

The Transgender Anti-Violence Project Column

by Tahlia

Hello! Let me introduce myself. My name is Tahlia and I am the new Transgender Anti-Violence Project (TAVP) Officer at the Gender Centre. I've been volunteering at the Centre since the beginning of the year, so you may have already seen me 'round the traps, but I have now become a more permanent feature of this little terrace by the park. Some of you may know about the TAVP and some of you may not. Before I tell you about the project and how it can help you, let's start from scratch.

What is violence? And how do I know if what I've experienced even counts as violence?

There are many different forms of violence and just as many myths about what 'counts' and what doesn't. Violence may take the form of physical assault, emotional abuse, sexual assault or domestic and family violence. And what if you don't have cuts or bruises?

Emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse, threats, harassment, stalking, online abuse or cyber bullying, bullying at school or work, destroying your belongings or even harming your pets... that still counts as violence.

If you are in a relationship with someone who is restricting your access to money, socially isolating you or forbidding you to see your family and friends... that counts too. There are other forms of violence that transgender people in particular may experience.

This includes having your testosterone, HRT or HIV medication taken away from you and or having your trans* identity or HIV status outed – or threatened to be outed – against your will. Nothing is too small to report.

Hopefully, you will never experience violence or harassment related to your gender identity (or at all of course). Tragically, however, transgender people and people of diverse gender identities are at risk of experiencing violence every day. And many do.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of violence, harassment or hate crime based on your gender expression, you don't need to remain silent. Speaking up is a start to regaining your sense of self and empowerment.

Demanding a life free of violence, oppression and discrimination on the grounds of your sexual or gender diversity is a sign of strength and bravery.

That's where I come in...

As the Transgender Anti-Violence Project Officer, I am here to provide you with support in a number of areas.

The first and most important area is reporting the violence. If you prefer, you can report to the TAVP without reporting to the police. What you tell me or other Gender Centre staff will remain confidential and your

name and other identifying information will not be released without your permission.

When you report to the TAVP, in person, by phone, or online, you can provide me with as much information about yourself and the incident as you feel comfortable with.

The more information you provide, the more support I will be able to offer you and the more I can try to stop the violence happening to someone else.

I will support you throughout the process of reporting to the TAVP and/or the police, seeking legal advice, accompanying you to court, helping you to get medical assistance, providing education, organising counselling, making referrals to other services, offering follow-up support and advocating on your behalf about situations specifically related to violence, transphobia and hate crimes.

Any or all of these avenues might feel right for you. After reporting an incident to the TAVP, you will not be forced to take any further action. Your experiences mean your decisions.

Okay, so maybe I do want to do something about it. Now what?



Tahlia

- In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000) or find the nearest police station.
- If it is not an emergency, go to your local police station and/or contact me.
- Phone the Gender Centre: 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday on 9569 2366 or 1800 069 115 (from outside Sydney).
- Rather report online? Visit www.tavp.org.au or www.gendercentre.org.au and follow the links.

For more information or support, email me at tavp@gendercentre.org.au.

Remember, experiencing violence is not your fault. You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, no matter who you are or how you identify.

I'm here to tell you that you're not alone and you can get help.

Together we can



Tablia

Barbecues and other events 2013



Watch the Gender Centre Website, Twitter and Facebook for details

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.

Queensland Research May Result in Long Term Prevention of AIDS

Associate Professor Harrich has modified a protein in the HIV virus that prevents several steps in the process of moving from HIV to AIDS. The process of gene therapy inserts genes into human cells to create the new protein. Harrich says that although the process (called Nullbasic) is not a cure for HIV, it is hoped that the protein could be used to develop a one-off, long-lasting treatment that would prevent HIV from moving into the AIDS stage.

If Harrich's research continues to provide good results there could be an important impact on those suffering from HIV, as it would provide an alternative from the currently used antiretroviral medication, freeing HIV patients from the prospect of lifelong medication. Animal trials of Nullbasic will start later in 2013. Early indications are positive but human trials will not commence for some years.

Reprinted from *Human Gene Therapy*, published by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisation.

“The table was set. The cake was iced. The candles were ready to be lit and wished on.

But the birthday girl was crying.

Dan tried to bring the memory to the surface, but it wavered like a mirage. He thought he was younger than ten but older than four. He remembered the floods of tears rolling down his cheeks as his father tried to make him wear a red dress for the family who would be coming for the party.

He certainly remembered that he was won over with bribery. His favourite toy, a grotesquely muscular action figure, was the deal breaker. He would be allowed to hold it despite the fact that it was more of a boy’s toy than a girl’s. He remembered his knuckles were white from clutching the toy while his overbearing relatives doted on how cute he looked in the little dress. “It was kind of ironic,” he chuckled.

The early childhood memory of that party was one of many small details that led Dan to believe he was not really a girl. I watched him as he relaxed into the couch at his Stanmore house, with isosceles-eared Oreo the mutt, cradled in his lean arms.

A tattooed heart peeked out from under his sleeve and a geometric flower folded into his elbow. The once ebony ink had settled into his skin casting blue-grey lines that looked as if they had lived with him for years. Silver rings wrapped around his nostril and bottom lip, drawing my eyes to the facial hair he now proudly sported.

“You know, I think you’re supposed to say something like “You know your real gender when you’re young”. You know it’s a ‘thing’ but you don’t know what it means, and then it ends up getting taught out of you,” Dan said. He recalled another memory of sitting under the “forty-four home tree” in year three, blurting out that he was a boy to his best girl friends. There was no burning embarrassment when they said they weren’t boys. But there was a sinking feeling of disappointment, and a dull ache in his rib cage, as if no one in the world was like him. “I just thought it wasn’t possible.”

Dan and I met at an all-girls high school in year seven. The totem pole was just being established

-classes were being streamed by intellect and students sorted by colour. All the while, the teachers insisted that “it’s not a competition”. We were underdeveloped and wide-eyed. Our pale blue dresses brushed our ankles. I could still hear one girl mimic her mother’s screech “I’m not going to pay a fortune on a new dress every year, you’ll just have to grow into it!”.



Pip Rasmussen

When I saw Dan on that first day, she was surrounded by what appeared to be the misfits of our cohort. I was drawn to this group. We grew up together, learning our bodies and eccentric styles. Like any decent gang of misfits we challenged authority with hair colours and piercings.

Dan would wear a fringe to her eyelashes, with streaks of colour bleached in school holidays. If it wasn’t for her height, she might have been intimidating. She was slight, craning her neck to meet the eyes of the rest of us. I could grip her wrist with my hand and my fingers would overlap. The corners of her mouth would crease revealing a broad cheeky smile. And there was the way that she unintentionally made others feel like a protector as they wrapped their arms around her. Cute was an understatement. There was no way Dan could avoid wearing dresses throughout his school years so, for a long time, during his teenage years, Dan suppressed his inner self and ignored the body he was forced to inhabit. For a long time during his teenage years, Dan distanced himself from his body and selfhood.

“I kind of just stopped thinking about myself as who I am,” he stared at the moving images of the TV in front of us, unaware of the low whisper of MTV’s 80s Countdown. “I disregarded it because it was uncomfortable. I never thought of myself as a girl. In my head, I was either neutral or masculine.” While he identified as gay during school, he loathed the word “lesbian”. It had the ability to leave a searing red mark,

branding a female gender onto the soul. He told me about how his gaming characters would always reflect his inner self, which was male. He even admits his frustration with the character-building game, *The Sims*. After the long wait for his pregnant *Sims* character to give birth, a baby girl was delivered.

He thought about using a simple cheat to “delete” her, but he couldn’t bring himself to murder a defenceless CGI baby. When I asked about life before transitioning, Dan recalled moments of confusion, passing thoughts and a disturbing sense of dissociation from his self.

“It’s a bunch of things that build up that show that there’s this..” His eyes stared down, thick eyebrows furrowed. He was silent but I could sense his mind struggling to find the words to make me understand. “There’s this mismatch.. It’s not ‘I want to be more boyish’. It’s like ‘something’s not right.’”

Dan is now twenty, and had been on testosterone for seven months when we talked. He referred to his situation as a “condition”.

Transgender, formerly known as transsexuality and misinterpreted by many, is a phenomenon that has inconclusive answers, and little understanding or social awareness.

The term “transsexuality” had led me into a mistaken view on the subject. I had always believed it was some kind of sexuality associated with homosexuality, but had no reason to investigate further until I received a private message addressed to myself and fifty others.

“HI people! As some of you may or may not know i am currently transitioning female to male (FTM). i am documenting this transition through youtube videos and later on will do comparison pics.

“If I have sent you this message it could be for a few reasons.. maybe you have told me you want to see the videos when I make them, maybe you have asked me about my transition, or maybe i think you’d be interested. or maybe we have never ever talked about it before and this is me coming out to you. haha.

“if you have any questions or whatevas im open to anything, im doing this for others to understand as well as for myself to observe.”

Katherine Cummings, a male-to-female transgender I interviewed as part of this project also sent an email notifying her colleagues of her transition from male to female (MTF). While Dan wanted to pave the new pronoun of “he” to his friends, Katherine did it because she “detested gossip”.

Between visits to Dan, I met up with Katherine who is the Information Worker and Librarian at the NSW Gender Centre in Petersham. The Centre was set up almost thirty years ago to provide services to people with gender issues, particularly intersex, cross-dressing and transgender. It grew out of weekly support meetings for transgendered people at the Wayside Chapel who were recognised as vulnerable to abuse and discrimination during the 80s.

Today, transgender people still suffer the same problems. The cold sting of rejection when a wife can’t understand why her husband cross-dresses, and his bags are sitting by the front door the next morning. The skin prickling when looking in the mirror and seeing a stranger stare back. The taste of blood, as a skull is cracked against the ground.

Katherine knew too well the circumstances transgender people find themselves in, often falling through the cracks of society. Without hesitation she told me about her life, how she struggled to be “normal”, married, raised a family and finally transitioned at the age of fifty-one. Her secrets were not frantic scribbles of thought in a notebook, wrapped in clothes and pushed to the furthest corner of a drawer at home. They grew out of a series of talks she gave on the ABC’s “Health Report” and later published as *Katherine’s Diary; the story of a transsexual*, a book that won the Australian Human Rights Award for Non-Fiction in 1992. “Humans are infinitely variable.” Katherine sat straight backed. “And gatekeeping is tight.” Without a doubt, society had a way of promoting ‘normal’ notions of sexuality and gender and filtering out the ‘abnormal’. My mind instantly took me to my local movie rental shop. Pink and blue divided the children’s section - movies for girls and movies for boys. I asked Katherine about how many transgender people live in Australia. Nobody knows. There are some

statistics thrown around, but they were outdated years ago. Often the statistics quoted a prevalence of 1:30 000 for MTF transitions, but Professor Lynn Conway's debunked this figure. She estimated that MTF ranged from 1:2500 to 1:2000 in the world.

These figures were only based on Gender Reassignment Surgery. Many transgendered people, however, don't feel the need to have surgery, or can't afford it. The lack of hard information about transgender created prejudice based on ignorance? Was it any wonder people were unwilling to identify as transgender?

When Dan and I sat in Hyde Park...As Dan and I sat in Hyde Park listening to the cacophony of hissing bus brakes and rustling trees, I asked him the question that had been niggling in the back of my head all morning - were transgender people ashamed of themselves? "I think a large majority of people who transition feel ashamed of it. Many people don't like to acknowledge it, because they see it as something to fix, you know what I mean? They see it as being in the wrong body." He took a breath. "They don't like focusing on the fact that they weren't born the way they felt they should've been."

Cross-legged, he picked at the grass. He explained that the root of the discomfort and shame was the body. For him, bottom dysphoria was worse than top.

From the day he began injecting testosterone, his body had become a moving image, constantly developing and simultaneously fading. Under the sun, I could take in how much his body had changed through the shadows that defined him - some were new and some old shadows were gone. His thin arms were wired with fresh muscle. His neck was wider, with hair creeping up to his grin in a 5 o'clock shadow.

His binder denied any shadow as it flattened his chest entirely. The first few months of video documentation showed a softer boyish face, a voice dropping up and down as if it were unsure of itself. Seven months on and his voice had lowered, dropping into husky undertones. I was even more intrigued by his genuine laughter.

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July-September 2013

Laughter is a reaction that is an integral part of human behaviour, unique to each individual. When Dan laughed, his voice dropped even deeper into a warm sound that rose from his chest. It sounded so naturally male that I was momentarily stunned, unaware of the bustling city around us. Reading paperwork, signing dotted lines and paying various professionals was the only way Dan could get to where he was today.

To not transition would mean the body would forever betray the mind and heart.

Back at his place in the inner west, scrawled on the bottom of my lined notebook were the

costs of his transition to date.

Changing his name, hormone injections, appointments with psychiatrists and endocrinologists, packers (prosthetic genitalia) and binders formed a mind map on the paper. Underlined and circled was roughly \$2020. My jaw dropped. Dan continued to pet Oreo, unsurprised. It was simply a cost he had accepted months ago, and now had to live with for the rest of his life.

Reflecting on everything I had learnt about transgender, I remembered the positive responses from people my age to Dan's original Facebook message. But I was interested to hear another generation's view. I told my grandma about Dan's situation, and she fell silent. "How dreadful for him. It must be so difficult." Her quiet words stayed with me from the moment Dan and I met in Hyde Park, to when I left his place through the broken front gate creaking on its rusty hinge. I believe now it is important for us to be open-minded, especially in areas we don't understand.

But my grandma, with her eighty-six years of wisdom, spoke a startling truth. There were are financial, physical, emotional, social and legal costs for people who transitioned transition from one gender to the other, but they have no other choice. To not transition would mean the body would forever betray the mind and heart."

Pip Rasmussen is a Media student at Macquarie University. She carried out this project as part of her degree and achieved a High Distinction .

The Seahorse Society of NSW



GoddeSS Ball

2013

Compered by **DANIEL STODDART**

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Put your everyday cares behind you...

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When.....Saturday 17th August 7.00 pm

Where.....Mercure Hotel Sydney Airport

Cost.....\$130.00 ...Includes 3 course meal,

pre-dinner drinks and complimentary wine on table.



Enquires and bookings

www.seahorsesoc.org

0423 125 860

by Alexandria Wilson

The art of performance has allowed William (Billie) Luscombe, eighteen, to feel comfortable within himself. His innate desire to assume identities that differ from that his own can be attributed to his identification with transgenderism.

Billie is a theatre enthusiast who finds great pleasure in performing his renditions of Roxanne (Roxie) Hart from the play "Chicago". Billie says: "I love theatre. It has always been a passion of mine. I love to sing, I love to dance but most of all I love that theatre is an avenue to become another person, like Roxie."

Like many children, Billie had an imaginary friend. Her name was Louise. One of his earliest recollections was role-playing. He recalls, "I would be helping my mum in the kitchen and say: 'Alright, I'm going to go away now and I'm going to send Louise back' because I always wanted to be Louise more than I wanted to be Billie." This was more than simple child's play.

"I'm transgender. I have identified myself as transgender for about a year now," says Billie. He explains: "I feel like I'm a woman trapped inside a man's body. I just think that I am in every way a woman, except physically."

Billie has associated with the female gender from a very young age. He says: "My name is William but I hate that. I've always been Billie. I've spelt Billie with an 'ie' since I was about eight because I figured that was the way girls spelt their names."

In the exploration of his true identity, Billie has considered being asexual, bisexual and homosexual.

It was his cousin and well-known sex activist, Zahra Stardust, who introduced him to the concept of transgenderism. Billie says: "Having majored in gender studies as part of her degree, Zahra was the most understanding.

She gave me some pamphlets on transgenderism and said: 'It might not be who you are but you

should read into it'." This enabled Billie to feel comfortable within himself.

He was given the opportunity to host the fashion parade of the Coco Chanel Ball held by the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). "I was able to perform this character and [the audience] responded really well. They reported to the organisers and said: 'Billie was fantastic! He was so funny, so warm and full of energy.'", says Billie. "Sometimes I can't help but think the same people in a different situation might think I'm a bit strange."



Roxie aka Billie

Billie hopes to find acceptance beyond the stage and within the broader scope of society. In his hometown, he was blatantly discriminated against. "I lived in Nowra until I was seventeen. Moving to Sydney was always the plan because I didn't really enjoy Nowra. I guess I was never really accepted. I was shouted at on the street. I was even spat on. I was obviously not a woman but I would present myself as one and that was way too much for the general population," says

Billie.

Despite having to endure the passing of judgment, Billie is highly ambitious. "I would love if in ten years time I was a performer. That is my ultimate dream. Or married to a rich man and not working," he laughs. Billie's advice to other transgender teenagers is, "to not care about the people who don't care about you. Surround yourself with the people that love you and disregard the people who don't."

They haven't called, they haven't written ...

The Editor welcomes contributions from our readers. Letters, articles, opinions and life experiences are all welcome.

The deadline for contributions for the next issue is 8th September.

The 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.

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

Books may be borrowed for three weeks.

If you are isolated for any reason and would like to have material mailed to you, let the Resource Worker know. Don't forget to include your mailing address!



Directory Assistance

A.C.T.

AGENDERAGENDA

works with the sex and gender diverse community. This includes transsexuals, transgender people, intersex people, cross-dressers and other non-gender conforming people. We acknowledge the important role that partners, family members and allies play and these people are specifically welcomed as part of our community.

PO Box 4010, Ainslie, ACT, 2602
Ph: (02) 6162 1924
Fax: (02) 6247 0597
E m a i l : support@genderrights.org.au
Website: www.genderrights.org.au

AIDSACTION COUNCIL OF ACT

The AIDS Action Council of the ACT provides information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support services for people living with HIV/AIDS
Westlund House, Acton, ACT 2601
GPO Box 229, Canberra, ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6257.2855
Fax: (02) 6257.4838
info@aidSACTION.org.au

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: aacswoop@aidSACTION.org.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW 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 Information 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 9569 2366

Residential service

Provides semi-supported share accommodation for up to eleven residents who are sixteen years of age or over. Residents can stay for up to twelve months and are supported as they move towards independent living. 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 Manager, Gender Centre, 7 Bent Street or PO Box 266, Petersham NSW 2049
Tel: (02) 9569.2366
Fax: (02) 9569.1176
manager@gendercentre.org.au
http://www.gendercentre.org.au

2010 - TWENTY10/GLBT YOUTHSUPPORT

Twenty10 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 as well as information and referrals for young GLBT people and their families. We run community education programs throughout NSW.

PO Box 553 Newtown, NSW, 2042
Youth callers needing help:
Sydney local: (02) 8594 9555
Rural NSW: 1800 652 010
All other callers:
(02) 8594 9550
Fax: (02) 8594 9559
Email: infor@2010.org.au
www.twenty10.org.au

ACONHEALTH LTD

Information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support for living living with HIV/AIDS.
41 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills, NSW 2011 or POBox 350 Darlinghurst, NSW 1300
Ph: (02) 9206 2000
Fax: (02) 9206 2069
tty: (02) 9283 2088

ACON-HUNTER

129 Maitland Road or PO Box 220, Islington, 2296
Ph: (02) 4927 6808
Fax: (02) 4927 6845
hunter@acon.org.au
www.acon.org.au

ACON-MID-NORTH COAST

Shop 3, 146 Gordon St
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel: (02) 6584 0943
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

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
Ph: (02) 9283 8666
free call 1800 651 011
www.bgf.org.au
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. Provides support and understanding for families and friends 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

FTMAustralia

Resources and health information for all men (identified *female* at birth), their partners, families 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, higher for mobiles)
1800 184 527 (free call for regional NSW callers only)
Admin enquiries: (02) 8594 9500 or admin@glsnsw.org.au
website: www.glsnsw.org.au

HIV AWARENESS AND HIV AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

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

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:
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 10am - 6pm
Wed 12 noon-6pm
Weekends and public holidays, 10am - 1.45pm (NSP & methadone only)
Outreach Bus - Every Night
100 Darlinghurst Road
(Entrance above the Kings Cross Fire Station Victoria Street
PO Box 22, Kings Cross, NSW, 1340
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

NEWCASTLE SWOP

SWOP at Newcastle has a Mobile Sexual Health Team
4927 6808

NORTHAIDS

A community based organisation providing step down and respite care for PLWHA on the Northern Beaches.
Tel: (02) 9982 2310

PARRAMATTA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

provides free, confidential and respectful sexual health information, assessment, treatment and counselling.
Level 1, 162 Marsden (cnr. eorge St) Parramatta, 2150
Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Mon, Wed, Fri, 9.00am-4.00pm
Tue 9.00am-1.00pm
Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

PLWHA (PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS)

PO Box 831, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010
Ph: (02) 9361 6011
Fax: (02) 9360 3504
www.plwha.org.au
Katoomba
PO Box 187,
Katoomba, NSW, 2780
Ph: (02) 4782 2119
www.hermes.net.au/plwha/
plwha@hermes.net.au

POSITIVE WOMEN

Can offer one-on-one support for HIV positive transgender women.

Directory Assistance

Issue Ninety-Six

Contact Women and AIDS
Project Officer or Women's HIV
Support officer at ACON.
Ph: (02) 9206 2000
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

RPA SEXUAL HEALTH

CLINIC provides a free and
confidential range of health,
counselling and support services. Ph:
9515 3131

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 infor-
mation service, postal library
service and a newsletter.
PO Box 2193 Boronia
Park, NSW, 2111 or Ph:
0423 125

(SWOP) SEX WORKERS OUTREACH TRANSGENDER SUPPORT PROJECT

Provides confidential services for
people working in the NSW sex
industry.
Lvl 4, 414 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills,
NSW, 2010
PO Box 1354
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Tel: (02) 9206 2159
Fax: (02) 9206 2133
Toll free 1800 622 902
infoswop@acon.org.au
www.swop.org.au

SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

Provides an opportunity for bi-
sexual and bisexual-friendly people

to get together in comfortable, safe
and friendly spaces.

SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

Welcomes FTM men.
PO Box 2064, Boronia Park, 2111
Tel: 9879.4979 (Paul Whyte)
paulwhyte@gelworks.com.au
Pub social in Newtown on 3rd
Sunday of every month followed
by a meal. All welcome.
POB 281 Broadway NSW 2007
Tel: (02) 9565.4281 (info line)
sbn-admin@yahoo.com
http://sbn.bi.org

SYDNEY BISEXUAL PAGANS

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

SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

Provides free, confidential health
services, including sexual func-
tion, counselling and testing and
treatment of STDs, including HIV.
Level 3, Nightingale Wing,
Sydney Hospital, Macquarie
Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
Ph: (02)9382 7440 or freecall
from outside Sydney 1800 451
624.
(8.30am-5.00pm)
Fax: (02) 9832 7475
sshc@sasahs.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 men80
Benerembah Street, Griffith PO
Box 2485, Griffith, NSW 2680
Tel: (02) 6964.5524
Fax: (02) 6964.6052
glsg@stealth.com.au

WOLLONGONG TRAN

Transgender Resource and Advo-
cacy 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 AND GIRLS DROP IN CENTRE

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

National

(ABN) AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

National network of bisexual
women and men, partners and bi-
and bi-friendly groups. ABN
produces a national 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

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
for both public and member-only
access.

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

CHANGELING ASPECTS

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

FTMAustralia

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

NATIONAL LGBTI HEALTH ALLIANCE

Office: (02) 8568 1110
Fax: (02) 8212 9013
PO Box 51, Newtown, NSW, 2042
www.lgbtihealth.org.au

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

AGENDERNEWZEALAND

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and families. For a detailed information pack, please contact:
Email: 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 transgendered. Provides trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists and there is a referral procedure to a choice of other therapists.
The Gender Trust
PO Box 3192, Brighton BN1 3WR, ENGLAND
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/gentrust/home.htm>
gentrust@mistral.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ANDROGYNOUS STUDIES (IFAS)

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

Are You Embarrassed by Ugly and Unwanted Facial or Body Hair?

You are not alone, and there is a permanent solution. Everywhere people are raving about the results of this amazing method!

It is medically and scientifically proven safe over 130 years of use to permanently remove your unwanted hair so that it NEVER grows back. This process is called Multi Probe Electrolysis.

We are so confident in our results we put our 100% money back Guarantee behind our work! *So phone NOW.* The first 27 people to call and mention this ad will receive our special introductory offer - **you pay only \$99** for \$168 of value - **a saving of \$69.**

- **Consultation** Valued at \$60
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- **Mefol Aftercare cream** Valued at \$30

City **Drummoyne**
Dymocks Building, 170 Victoria Road,
Level 3, 428 George St, Sydney Drummoyne
9221 8594 **9719 1391**


www.permanence.com.au

PERMANENCE

The permanent hair removal specialists



NSW 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.

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

“crossdress with dignity”

The Permanent Solution...

in Permanent Hair Removal

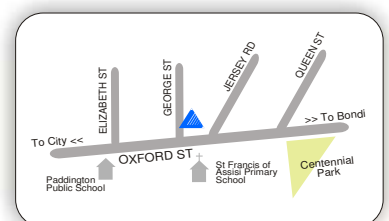
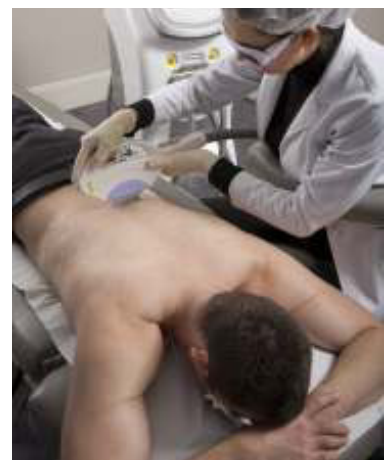
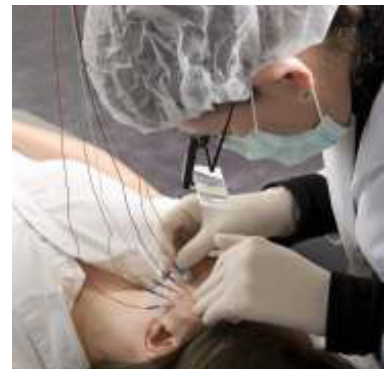
For those who are embarking on the transition from male to female, the permanent removal of hair is vital. However, with so many clinics and procedures to choose from, it's crucial that your chosen solution is reliable, safe and permanent.

At Advanced Electrolysis Centre, we have been specialising in permanent hair removal since 1996, continually improving the methods and the technologies that deliver the best results. You'll be in the hands of our experienced and qualified specialists, where you'll receive the ultimate level of personal care and attention. We also offer on-site parking for our 3hr clients subject to availability.

Galvanic electrolysis is a scientifically proven technique that is effective no matter what type of hair you have, and no matter what colour skin. It works perfectly, even if you have blonde or grey hair. However if you have dark hair this can be treated by laser or IPL, or in many cases a combination to achieve a true permanent result.

So, whether you are in need of some general information, or you have already decided on a method that best suits your needs, come in for a chat and get expert advice on how to effectively be free of your unwanted hair FOREVER!

- Multi probe galvanic 16, 32 and 64 (Dual operator) follicle treatment
- Guaranteed Permanent Results
- Skin Rejuvenation
- Pigmentation Reduction
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