

# the Gender Centre Service Magazine

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

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

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

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

## the Gender Centre

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



7 Bent Street  
PO Box 266  
Petersham  
NSW 2049

Tel:(02) 9569 2366

Outside Met. Sydney  
1800 069 115 (9-4.30, M-F)  
Fax: (02) 9569 1176

Email:  
reception@gendercentre.org.au

Website:  
[www.gendercentre.org.au](http://www.gendercentre.org.au)  
The Gender Centre is staffed  
9am-4.30pm Monday to  
Friday



## Our Services

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

## Residential Service

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

# QLife-LGBTI

**Telephone Counselling and support:**

**Free Call 1800 184 527**

**5.30pm - 10.30pm daily**

**Webchat available at [www.qlife.org.au](http://www.qlife.org.au)**

**Email: [ask@qlife.org.au](mailto:ask@qlife.org.au)**

**Twenty10 (incorporating GLCS NSW) also offers:**

***Lesbian Line (Monday 5.30pm-9.30pm) Sydney metro: 8594 9595***

***Face-to-face Support Groups (for people over 19)***

Talking it Out Men's Discussion Group (fortnightly Thurs 7.00pm)

Women's Coming out Group (fortnightly Thurs 7.00pm)

SMART Recovery Program (weekly Mondays 7.00pm)

Social Saturdays (monthly Saturdays 4.30pm)

For more information on these groups **see**

<http://twenty10.org.au/glcs>

And many services for young people (under 26): groups, counselling, case management, drop-in space and more.

For more information contact the Twenty10/GLCS office:  
(02) 8594 9550 or 8594 9555

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

or by mail: PO Box 78,  
Strawberry Hills, NSW, 2012



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WOMEN

EX-PRISONERS

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If you are interested in having a Mentor, contact TARA at Women in Prison Advocacy Network (WIPAN)

Ph: 02 8011 0693

Mobile: 0415 454 770

Email: [mentoring@wipan.net.au](mailto:mentoring@wipan.net.au)

Website: [www.wipan.net.au](http://www.wipan.net.au)

Having a MENTOR has changed my life  
... my FUTURE is BRIGHTER than ever!

April-June 2014

No. 99

## CONTRIBUTORS

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### DEADLINE

for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is  
the eighth of June 2014

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*THE FINE PRINT*

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Once upon a time Mardi Gras, which translates as Fat Tuesday and is also known as Shrovetide, Shrove Tuesday and Pancake Day, was the last day before Lent, which commences on Ash Wednesday. It was the day on which the

stocks of the foods forbidden during the fasting time of Lent, and which would not be edible by the time Lent was over (forty days, give or take a day), were used up.

This also accounts for the period being referred to as “carnival”, which is a variation on “carne vale” or “farewell to meat”. Its timing depends on the timing of Easter, which is a moveable feast, dependent on phases of the moon and similar matters of religious significance. Or, to hark back to an earlier editorial, the timing of Mardi Gras makes as much sense as does the commencement of the year on January 1.

I just checked the method used for calculating the date for Easter Day (calling it Easter Sunday is a tautology since Easter Day is **always** a Sunday) and it is hilariously complex. It’s worth checking.

When Mardi Gras was adopted by the Gays and Lesbians I have no idea. Humans tend to indulge themselves in fantasy behaviour from time to time in all cultures and over all historical periods. We only have to look at the Roman Saturnalia, where it was common for role reversal to be practised for a day (slaves became masters or mistresses, men became women etc.), or at the American adoption of Halloween which was originally the evening before All Saints Day, when restless souls were allowed to roam, making, as Hamlet put it so succinctly, night hideous.

In America this has become not only an evening for ghastly children to roam the streets making the night even more hideous with demands for candy conveyed with threats of mischief but also an opportunity for cross-dressers of all kinds to indulge themselves with relative impu-

nity.

America also has its Shriners, Mummers and other groups that will jump into weird costumes at the drop of an excuse and doubtless there are other cultural groups all around the world that indulge in costuming, makeup, mask and other paraphernalia designed to enhance, conceal or confuse their identify.

Sydney now appears to have one of the largest and most prestigious Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras celebrations in the world, whereas for many years it tended to be Latin-American locations (New Orleans, Rio etc.) that were predominant. Growing from a rather defiant and not very triumphal attempt to support the Gay and Lesbian Liberation Movement in 1978 (I was there, but dropped out halfway because I was wearing five-inch heels, which are fine for perching on a bar stool but hell to walk on, particularly downhill).

The worst outcome of that event was the arrest of a number of participants and the subsequent publication of their names in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. People were outed right and left, relationships were shattered and jobs were lost.

Over the years Mardi Gras has had its ups and downs, financial, social and political. At one point it collapsed financially and had to be revived with a new name (it was cleverly called “New Mardi Gras”). In 2008 the State Government came to the party (!) and provided some finance, on the grounds that the Mardi Gras was part of the State’s Master Events Calendar (whatever that is) and brought in around \$30 million in related income from tourists. By this time there was a range of events including film festivals, the Mardi Gras Fair held in Victoria Park, the Sleaze Ball and many other peripheral events.

This year, for the first time, the Mardi Gras was advertised as being inclusive of transgenders and a committee was formed that included transgenders in the planning for the events.

I confess I am confused by this development as it seems to be a sure way to confirm the generally held view that gays, lesbians and transgenders were somehow similar, a nexus that some of us have been trying to break for a long time.



How often does it need to be said that those who are same-sex attracted are demonstrating a sexuality whereas those who are transgendered are demonstrating a gender identity situation.

Of course it is possible for transgenders to be gay or lesbian (I consider myself a lesbian) and this would give them a perfectly valid reason to take part in the Mardi Gras. But some Lithuanian carpenters may also be gay or lesbian and this is hardly a reason to relabel the Mardi Gras as the Gay, Lesbian and Lithuanian Carpenter's Mardi Gras. In other words, the fact that one is transgendered does not, in my opinion, create a link with those who wish to celebrate their same-sex attraction over a number of weeks.

Another aspect of Mardi Gras that has become more and more marked over the years is the concern with money. I have noted above that the State Government sees the Mardi Gras as a tourist money-spinner, to the effect that they have propped up the festival financially in the past and the figure of \$30 million has been quoted as the tourist spend during Mardi Gras the Pink Dollar and the spectator dollars it attracts by those who are not directly involved.

The Gay and Lesbian Fair used to be much more enjoyable (for me) when it had the amateur atmosphere enjoyed by many of the irregular markets held around Sydney. The feeling that people were volunteering their time and selling off their trash and treasure in a good cause was much preferable to me than the modern version that seems to have only service organisations, a few individual causes and a multitude of professional sales booths selling cheap clothing and jewellery or food and drink at vastly inflated prices. I know that this year I was sold two cups of coffee and a slice of cake for the rather inordinate price of \$16.00. I look back wistfully to the days when I would come to the Fair with an empty pack and return home with a pack full of other people's discarded books and DVDs. Them was the days.

Another example of merchandising gone mad was the so-called Inaugural LGBTIQ Conference, to be run at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel over two days and presented by INFORMA Australia and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

I was asked to present a paper and agreed to do so. A copy of the programme was made available and the speakers and topics seemed to be interesting.

I was taken aback, however, to find that the conference planned to charge over a thousand dollars for those attending. So the conference would have excluded, on financial grounds, almost all the people who might have benefited from hearing the views and being given the information they most needed, as well as being able to make their own contributions at question time or in workshop situations.

I complained to a colleague and was told these were fairly standard rates for conferences these days and that one could not attract the international 'big names' without a venue of this kind. Personally I would prefer to do without the 'big names' if they were not happy with the concept of presenting the benefit of their experience and wisdom in some less gorgeous milieu. My own preference would be a hall donated by one of our friendly local Councils, with everyone invited to bring a packed lunch.

I spent some time preparing my paper, and it included my views on the iniquity of holding the conference in a luxury hotel but the conference didn't happen. Why not? Not enough enrolments. Why not enough enrolments? I believe the answer lies in the registration cost, too high for many social services, let alone those who are being served. Mind you, there was no general information that the conference had been cancelled.

I happened to be in a group of co-workers when I was asked if I would be present at one of the regular Gender Centre meetings (the MTF meeting that I facilitate, or moderate or invigilate or whatever it is that I do). I reminded my questioner that I was committed to the Inaugural Conference and a third party, better informed than I, told me the conference was off. Without that series of coincidences I would have turned up at the Sheraton with my sheaf of remarks in hand, only to be told that the time I had spent writing my thoughts, and the day I had given up to be present, were wasted. What kind of shambles was that, and who are these INFORMA

## Issue Ninety-Nine

people who pride themselves on their ability to organise conferences?

It may have been last year, or possibly the year before, that I put forward the view that the Mardi Gras had passed its use-by date. Maybe not, because I was heartened to see the armed forces represented at the Fair, handing out information and presenting a modern-day civilised attitude to the idea of G, L, B, T and I being encouraged to serve their country openly, if that is their choice, and without the ridiculous evasiveness of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and similar puerile strategies.

Don’t get me wrong. Although the Parade does not interest me I know that a lot of people go to a tremendous amount of trouble to plan and execute the various spectacular floats and displays, and selflessly donate many hours of their time to construct the floats, create the costumes and rehearse the routines. It must be a lot of fun and the people who go along to view the parade are rewarded with an amazing show at little or no cost.

Yes, it’s fun, but I don’t think it serves its original purpose, that of letting people know that the gay and lesbian communities from the time of the first parade were now out and proud and would not be pushed out of sight as they had been in earlier, and less rational, times. The people I admire most in the parade are the parents and friends, those who have lost loved ones to disease or violence, and the services who at one time were forbidden to march in uniform but now do so, proudly and openly.

The whole concept of Mardi Gras is flawed, for me, by the fact that it is an annual event, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. If we had really achieved what the first Mardi Gras parades set out to do (refusal to be treated as fourth-class citizens and a rational acceptance into the mainstream of society), there would be no need for the hoopla. To say that someone is gay or lesbian should, by now, be no more significant than saying that they have red hair, or play tennis, or are Lithuanian carpenters.

One Mardi Gras event that **did** annoy me was the meeting held under a transgender aegis at the Seymour Centre, and featuring Chaz Bono and Cate McGregor. It was called “Trail

Blazers”, a highly inappropriate title for an event featuring two people who have only been visibly on the transgender scene for the past few years. I have no doubt they have worked hard, or intend to work hard, for the transgender cause, but to label them as trail blazers is to denigrate the lives and work of those who were really early on the scene and did not enjoy anything like the measure of acceptance that is now accorded to most transgenders. The trail blazers for Australia were Carlotta, Roberta Perkins, Elizabeth Riley and many others who gave their time and energy to promote the rights of transgenders to be who they are, long before Bono and McGregor appeared on the scene.

I have nothing against Chaz Bono and I wrote a piece on Cate McGregor in *Polare 98*, outlining the value of having someone like Cate McGregor on the scene, with her high profile in society and her political skills and contacts.

But they aren’t trail blazers. Nor am I, incidentally, in case you think this is a personal whinge. I had a dream run, except, like so many, for the loss of my wife and children, and I owe that dream run to the groundwork laid by those who came before me. I never had to hide from society and my views were listened to with respect, but they wouldn’t have been without the earlier contributions of Carlotta, Roberta Perkins, Elizabeth Riley, norrie mAy welby, Aidy Griffin, Carmen Rupe and many whose names I do not know.

I have one final point to make. Julia Doulman, who attended the Seymour Centre, tried to contribute her own experience at question time, pointing out that everyone doesn’t have a dream run with an employer like David Morrison to defend them, and some people experience extreme prejudice by employing bodies and work colleagues. Julia was told it was neither the time nor place for her comment and the microphone was taken from her. She says she had the microphone for two or three minutes at most, the moderator of the meeting says Julia had it for four minutes. Another person I talked to said Julia had the mike for ten minutes. Perceptions differ. My own view is that her point was valid. There is still injustice being heaped on transgenders, depriving them of employment, of education and other rights, but now the

perpetrators cannot act openly, as they once did, but must conceal their injustices with lies and weasel-worded policies.

If a gathering of people clearly interested in transgenders and the roads they take to arrive at their ultimate and inevitable destination is not the right time and place to make the point that we're not there yet, I don't know what is.

To sum up. Let us not forget that the original purpose of Mardi Gras was not to make money, nor to show what an amusing crowd we are, but rather to assert that we have the right to be ourselves and to assemble peacably, and recognisably, in public.

Let us pursue the unfulfilled part of our dreams through the courts and legislatures, asserting our right to be equal and pursuing those cases where the laws are inadequate, or are being circumvented by lies, by chicanery and blind, unthinking prejudice. Let us use reason rather than defiant display as our primary tool .

*Katherine*



### *Gender Centre Library Appeal*

If you have books you no longer need and feel they would be of interest to the Gender Centre clientele, we would be very glad to receive them, process them, and place them in the Gender Centre Library for Gender Centre users to read, for entertainment or information.



Contact Katherine on 9569 2366 (Monday or Friday) or just drop them in marked to my attention. Thanks!

Katherine Cummings

## *Transtopia 2014*

gender-questioning?  
gender-queer?

Transtopia is a monthly group to be held over ten months in 2014 for transgender and gender questioning 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 Nicola (on Mondays) at the Gender Centre  
(02) 9569 2366

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

**SAGE - campaigning for your rights!**

## Cross-dressing Artist Meets the Prince of Wales

Cross-dressing artist, Grayson Perry, who is well known for his eccentricity and in particular for his penchant for appearing as his *alter ego*, Claire, was recently awarded a CBE and the presentation was made at Buckingham Palace. Perry wore his “Italian mother-of-the-bride” outfit, a midnight-blue dress with a matching jacket and a large hat trimmed with ostrich feathers. Perry is a ceramicist, well known for works depicting his “thirty years of hard graft”.



Grayson Perry, CBE, with friends

The Prince of Wales, who was also flamboyantly dressed, albeit more conventionally, appeared highly amused as he presented the award to Perry, who posed later for photographs.

We look forward to an example of Perry’s art commemorating the event, although this can hardly have been one of Perry’s “darkest and most private feelings” which he says usually inspire his work. Perry also won the prestigious Turner Prize a few years ago.





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

Talk to someone  
who gets it...



**Imanadari Counselling**

DIVERSITY POSITIVE COUNSELLING

0448 006 961 | [imanadari.com.au](http://imanadari.com.au) | [imanadari@gmail.com](mailto:imanadari@gmail.com)  
Broadway, Glebe

**EUGENIA FALLENI TRIBUTE  
PROJECT INCORPORATED  
FORMED**

Mark Tedeschi, the author of *Eugenia*, has now established the Eugenia Falleni Tribute Project Inc., whose purpose is to raise awareness of the isolation and prejudice suffered by Eugenia Falleni *aka* Harry Crawford, and to raise funds to erect a gravestone above his unmarked grave in Rookwood Cemetery.

A permanent website has been established at: [eugeniafalleni.com.au](http://eugeniafalleni.com.au) and donations can be made through the website. If you wish to become involved in this project please contact Mark Hewitt on [markhewie@gmail.com](mailto:markhewie@gmail.com)

A small committee has been established and more interested parties are being sought.

***The Attempt to create an informational email list has been discontinued due to lack of interest and it is suggested that those who wish to be kept up-to-date with events should consult the Web-page and/or the Gender Centre Facebook page and/or the Gender Centre Twitter file.***

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 to the next issue is soon.



2014

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

**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](http://www.ftmaustralia.org)

## ANOTHER TRANSGENDER ENTERS THE NEW ZEALAND POLITICAL SCENE

Following in the distinguished footsteps of Georgina Beyer, the new Labour candidate for the seat of Whangarei, Kelly Ellis, hopes to win the seat from the Nationals, which has been a safe seat for that party for more than forty years. Kelly Ellis is a lawyer and transgender rights advocate and plays down the fact that she is transgender. “I think that the people of Whangarei are much more interested about addressing jobs, and poverty and homes, and did I say jobs?” said Ms Ellis. “I think people are much more concerned about that kind of thing than any old hat stuff like transgender. I thought the media might have got over that with Georgina Beyer in 1999.

Ms Ellis will be opposed by another political newcomer, Dr Shane Reti of the National Party and there is a chance that Winston Peters, leader of the New Zealand First party, may also contest the seat.

## CONFERENCE OF INDIAN TRANSGENDERS SETS OUT TO COMBINE THEIR VOTING POWER

A three day conference held in Allahabad has attempted to combine the voting strength of a group of citizens that is becoming more politically aware. In general they seem to favour the candidacy in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election of Narendra Modi. They claim he has all the necessary qualities to be Prime Minister.



**Narendra Modi**

One of the transgender representatives, Babli, from Madhya Pradesh said, “We want a leader who can run the country efficiently and take it on the path to development. Our community prays for the growth of the

country. We like Modi’s ideology, ideas, and we wish him every success. We want him as our Prime Minister.”

## VARIOUS CHANGES IN THE LAWS REGARDING GENDER AT FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS

On Tuesday, March 4, the High Court of Australia heard an appeal from the NSW Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages against the 2013 judgement that said that it was possible for the Registrar to register a person’s sex as neither male nor female but rather non-specific.

This case resulted from one brought by norrie-mAy-welby in 2010. Norrie wished their gender to be registered as non-specific, as Norrie identifies neither as male nor female.

The Registry agreed and issued a certificate of identity showing gender as “not specified”. This certificate was revoked four months later after the registry received legal advice. Norrie challenged the new decision, and the ensuing legal battle finished up in the High Court.

In addition to this confrontation there have been other laws enacted or revised intended to deal with problems of for those with gender issues of diverse gender.

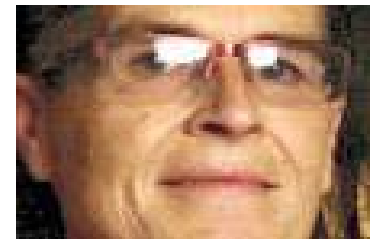
In 2011 the Federal Government allowed the issuing of passports with an “X” in place of the customary “F” or “M”. In Victoria people identifying as intersex can choose to have the gender on their birth certificates as “indeterminate” or left blank.

A new Bill has been introduced in the NSW Government which aims to abolish the law that compels a married couple, one of whom transitions as transgender, to be divorced before the transgendered partner can receive amended documentation.

The Bill has been sponsored by Alex Greenwich, an Independent MLC and by Dr Mehreen Faruqi, an MLC from the Greens.



**Kelly Ellis**



**Norrie**

# Speaking Personally by Marika

I hope you managed to have a wonderful festive season and a well-deserved summer break, a summer marked by relaxation, social comforts, positive reflection and optimistic expectations for the year ahead. If, however, this pretty well sums up your past few months, I envy you. I'm sure that, like me, many brothers and sisters in our LGBTI community may feel as I do. It's at times like these, when many families and friends, regardless of faith or creed, come together in a spirit of love, generosity and joyful celebration, that memories of such occasions can trigger an aching sense of loss. I think I share this loss with many of you, especially in terms of broken connections with children that made these and other occasions such a delight in the past.

This is not the maudlin whimper of an old grannie, but simply a statement of fact, especially with regard to those of us whose gender or sexual preference issues were confronted in less enlightened times, times when it was so much more difficult for those close to us to come to terms with those issues.

Don't get me wrong. I've had a lovely season none-the-less thanks to some wonderful friends but following the trend of the last few years since my transition, I've developed a determination to embrace every opportunity to maximise the quality of my new life in the years left to me. Consequently, I tend to sometimes 'bite off more than I can chew'.

(Incidentally this is particularly pertinent with regard to a rapidly deteriorating dental situation that I can ill-afford to have fixed.)

So, although this season has been fine for me, it's been overshadowed by events that I could have side-stepped had it not been for my dogged refusal



**Marika**

to just let them pass. Among these, some serious house- (and very old dog) sitting for friends and then nursing my friend Joanne through her recovery from a hip operation, all of which necessitated absence from my own place for a few months. My most consuming occupation over this period, however, has been a series of judicial procedures following an incident in October when I was subjected to vilification and threats of violence.

The matter was finally settled to my satisfaction by the end of February, but only after a series of stressful proceedings over a period of five months. Now, unfortunately, the law prevents me from discussing these events in any detail that might be prejudicial to any of the

parties involved. This puts me into a bit of a bind because my main reason for initiating the proceedings was to prove to myself and others that we don't have to just let things go when we're subjected to threats of violence and/or sexual vilification. Relevant laws, as they currently stand, are there to protectus, and we should take advantage of this. What I can do, however, is to share my experience by way of an outline of the procedural steps and possible consequences you may wish to consider in the event of ever being faced with similar circumstances.

Do keep in mind though, that what's to follow is by no means a suggestion that my reaction to the triggering events should be regarded as the right one. Your response, whatever it may be, has to be right for you. In fact, I'm very conscious of the possibility that my reaction might, quite justly, be regarded as being one of excessive intolerance to what were, in the final analysis, just words, regardless of the manner in which they were delivered.

My first step was to contact the Inner City Legal Centre by phone. They were very helpful in terms of possible courses of action open to me, none of which, however, offered the involvement of the ICLC itself. I also reported to the local police and to a relevant local authority. The police officers who came to see me were helpful and sympathetic and it was they who suggested that the threats of violence would justify my applying for an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) should



I choose to do so. After some serious consideration and more than a little trepidation I finally did so, about a week later. My initial hesitation was largely due to a number of warnings from well-meaning friends. Their advice was to the effect that they all seemed to know someone who had attempted legal proceedings following similar circumstances, only to fail and make things worse for themselves.

The court hearing was set for a date in November. I arrived at the courthouse at 9.30am, as directed, but it wasn't until around 11.30am that the matter was called. I represented myself. The magistrate advised me that the best I could hope for was to opt for a mediation meeting because the evidence I had supplied was insufficient. I declined the offer and agreed to submit a more detailed complaint for a further hearing at a later date. This date was set for early January. On that occasion the respondent had supplied a number of signed affidavits from friends and relatives claiming to have witnessed anti-social behaviour on my part and, at the same time, bore witness to the excellence of the defendant's character. The magistrate again deferred the hearing, directing the defendant to present these 'witnesses' at a further meeting at another court. At this third meeting, in mid-February, I also produced my character witnesses. The AVO was finally granted.

I had also been advised by the ICLC to get in touch with the NSW Anti-Discrimination

Board, which I did. The ADB were equally responsive and posted me the relevant forms explaining the functions of the Board along with some forms on which to document my claim, by return of post. This I did and, following a number of phone conversations with them, I agreed to a 'conciliation conference' at the Board's premises in the City, scheduled for early December. The day before the arranged meeting, however, the respondent notified his inability to attend due to a serious family matter. The hearing was postponed until a date to be fixed well after the holiday season.

The conciliation conference was eventually set for a date in mid-February. I was advised that I would be allowed to be accompanied by one 'support person' only, and this person was to be in no way involved in the proceedings. I decided to ask Tahlia Trijbetz, who had recently joined the Gender Centre as the contact person for the Transgender Anti-Violence Project.

Her presence was of enormous comfort to me and I was impressed by her poise and the ease with which she related to me and the Conciliator. The three-hour conference went very well, and the Conciliator drafted a memorandum of agreement, the details of which I am not allowed to share or discuss. Suffice it to say that it ended amicably and I know this person (and his immediate circle of associates) will think twice before ever repeating the same behaviour.

So, would I recommend using the Law when faced with serious vilification or threats of extreme violence? Well, in all honesty, I could only do so if I were able to press strongly upon anyone choosing to take this course that it can be very stressful, especially if the defendant, in an attempt to justify their behaviour in terms of extreme provocation, attempts to turn the tables with mendacious claims about one's character or behaviour. In my case I found this to be extremely stressful, costing me many sleepless nights. Fortunately, though, the magistrates saw right through this, so I needn't have worried. But you should also be prepared to spend hours in court waiting to be heard, which could be quite costly in terms of working hours lost.

I was fortunate, also, to enjoy the support of friends, especially those who were prepared to stand up in court if necessary. As it happened, it turned out not to be necessary but it was wonderful to have them there.

Finally, there will always be friends who will tell you your chances of winning are outweighed by the chances of losing. They may well be right but what will you feel if the situation repeats, again and again? I'm glad the matter is over but I can honestly say that, difficult and stressful though it was, my self respect has enjoyed a tremendous boost and that alone made the whole procedure worthwhile.

*Marika*

## **LGBTI IS NOW ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA FOR AGED CARE**

Reforms to the Aged Care Act last year mean that it is illegal for services receiving Commonwealth funding to discriminate against GLBTI people.

Faith/religious-based organizations that receive Commonwealth funding are no longer exempt. A national LGBTI Ageing and Age Care Strategy is in place. You can download & read it: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/lgbti-ageing-and-aged-care-strategy>.

LGBTI people are a special needs group under the Aged Care Act, with funding set aside for LGBTI training of the aged care workforce.

At the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) Conference held in Sydney in November 2013, two mornings and an afternoon were devoted to LGBTI ageing.

The workshops and presentations which focused on LGBTI ageing were attended by scores of Aged Care service providers and researchers from around Australia. They are keen to know what to do to provide LGBTI-friendly and welcoming services, and many will be seeking further training for their staff, if they haven't already done so.

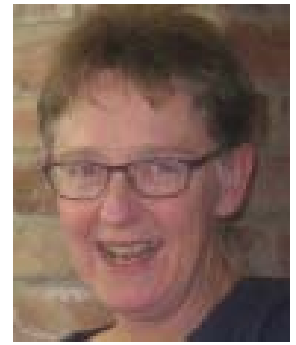
The nature of discrimination and marginalisation in its various forms was discussed, explored and work-shopped. Many participants were oblivious to the ways in which trans-people are disregarded, made invisible, discriminated against and subjected to violence.

One speaker made the point that often service providers are not transphobic but are acting from an entrenched cisgendered viewpoint. Their views about gender may never have been challenged in the past. It was stressed that GLBTI is a very wide umbrella.

While transgender people often don't identify with GLBI, trans-people are varied and diverse.

Ultimately what's important is that you are entitled to full human rights, and to be treated with respect, care and dignity.

Historically, transgender people have been reluctant and fearful about engaging with mainstream services, for good reasons. As we well know, change is often slow, and when discrimination and transphobia occur, there are avenues to raise concerns



**Laurel Walter**

and make complaints, such as the Aged Care Complaints Scheme, The Aged Care Rights Service (TARS), and the Inner City Legal Service (ICLS). In some cases this can be done anonymously. As the Over 55 support worker at the Gender Centre, I can assist you by advocating on your behalf, approaching the service provider, and/or making a complaint on your behalf. However if you are thinking about using an Aged Care service and you are uncertain or fearful about its response, please contact me to assist in your negotiations.

Meanwhile, it is heartening to know that there is a willingness within mainstream services to make the changes necessary for older transgender people to be treated with care and respect for their individuality. In the last few months I have spoken with scores of service providers who are expressing their intent to be LGBTI-inclusive and friendly.

I am now also collaborating with Val's Café ([www.valscafe.org.au](http://www.valscafe.org.au)), a Victorian group, on understanding and meeting the needs of older trans, intersex and gender-diverse people. I welcome all comments and feedback from you. This is information that we need from you to feed back to professionals and service providers about what transgender elders want and need.

### **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.

## TRANSGENDER FASHION MODEL HAVING AN EFFECT ON BRAZIL CUSTOMS

Carol Marra is one of a growing number of transgender and androgynous fashion models who are changing the attitudes and customs of her native Brazil.

Brazil, despite having a mixed-race and multicultural heritage and an accepting nature in many social areas, is nevertheless a conservative country with many of its social values heavily influenced by religion.

“They say that Brazil is a liberal, progressive country, but it’s not really like that,” said Marra in an interview with the *New York Times*.

Nevertheless, Marra has achieved success in a less-than-accepting situation and is now seen as a role model for other transgender models.

Carol Marra has also defended the practice of surgical procedures to increase the feminisation process.



**Carol Marra**

Marra says it is not always easy to be a recognised transgender model. She says her Facebook page is inundated with crude messages. This kind of attention is distressing for Marra who says that she never intended to be the public face for transgender models, but simply wanted to be “a woman like any other”.

## SAN FRANCISCO FUNDS SEXUAL REASSIGNMENT SURGERY FOR THE POOR AND UNINSURED

The City of San Francisco has set aside \$300,000 to fund gender reassignment (affirmation) surgery for the poor and uninsured with gender identity disorder. They have also set aside \$500,000 for next year’s budget.

Barry Zevin, who heads the Transgender Health Project, says that eighty-seven people have entered the program. Between five and ten new applications are being received each month.

The City provides chest and breast procedures at the San Francisco General Hospital, but has contracted genital procedures to two private surgeons. New patients receive hormone therapy for a year



**Barry Zevin**

as well as counselling. It is uncertain how many of the eighty-seven patients will proceed to surgery.

Procedures considered “cosmetic” such as electrolysis and mammoplasty are not covered, despite their undeniable importance in many cases for transgenders to receive acceptance and live a complete life, accepted fully by society.

## Pay-It-Forward Binder Program

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

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

The Pay-It-Forward program accepts donated binders, which are cleaned, sized and passed on to those in need. The service is based on honesty and should not be accessed by those who are just looking to save money.

Our website is:

[http://  
binderprogram.ftmaustralia.org](http://binderprogram.ftmaustralia.org)

or you can email:

[binderprogram @ftmaustralia.org](mailto:binderprogram@ftmaustralia.org)



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<i>Level 3, 428 George St, Sydney</i>	<i>Drummoyne</i>
<b>9221 8595</b>	<b>9719 1391</b>

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## 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](http://www.seahorsesoc.org)

Email:

[crossdress@seahorsesoc.org](mailto:crossdress@seahorsesoc.org)

Membership enquiries, change of details etc. contact Membership Secretary, PO Box 6179, West Gosford NSW, 2250

**“crossdress with dignity”**





## Gender Centre Events, Workshops and Group Meetings Jan-Dec 2014

1.30pm		Feb 3, 24 Women's Group	Mar 24 Women's Group	Apr 28 Women's Group	May 26 Women's Group	June 30 Women's Group	July 28 Women's Group	Aug 25 Women's Group	Sep 29 Women's Group	Oct 27 Women's Group	Nov 24 Women's Group	
1.30pm	Jan 9 Over 55s	Feb 13 Over 55s		Apr 10 Over 55s	May 8 Over 55s	June 12 Over 55s	July 10 Over 55s	Aug 14 Over 55s	Sep 11 Over 55s	Oct 9 Over 55s	Nov 13 Over 55s	Dec 11 Over 55s
5.00pm		Feb 12, 26 Youth Group	Mar 12, 26 Youth Group	Apr 9, 30 Youth Group	May 7, 28 Youth Group	June 4, 25 Youth Group		Aug 6, 20 Youth Group	Sep 3, 17 Youth Group	Oct 1, 15, 29 Youth Group	Nov 5, 19 Youth Group	Dec 3 Youth Group
6.00pm	Jan 3 FTM Connect	Feb 7 FTM Connect	Mar 7 FTM Connect	Apr 4 FTM Connect	May 2 FTM Connect	June 6 FTM Connect	Jul 4 FTM Connect	Aug 1 FTM Connect	Sep 5 FTM Connect	Oct 3 FTM Connect	Nov 7 FTM Connect	Dec 5 FTM Connect
6.00pm	Jan 13 Parents' Group	Feb 10 Parents' Group	Mar 10 Parents' Group	Apr 14 Parents' Group	May 12 Parents' Group	June 9 Parents' Group	July 14 Parents' Group	Aug 11 Parents' Group	Sep 8 Parents' Group	Oct 13 Parents' Group	Nov 10 Parents' Group	Dec 8 Parents' Group
5.00pm	Feb 19 Young Women	Feb 19 Young Women	Mar 19 Young Women	Apr 23 Young Women	May 21 Young Women	June 18 Young Women	July 23 Young Women	Aug 20 Young Women	Sep 17 Young Women	Oct 22 Young Women	Nov 19 Young Women	



### 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

by Kerry

Once upon a time there lived a happy family of four, Mum, Dad and the kids, a girl and a boy, in a European country town. But not all was as it seemed, oh, not at all.

Gretel, one year older than her brother, was dark haired, small, smart and tough. Hansel had a head full of golden locks (until the barber did the short-back-and-sides on him) with a charming smile and a gentle disposition. He was also Mum’s little darling and could do no wrong. Whenever they got into trouble, he told on Gretel and she usually got the stick.

Mum and Gretel were very much at odds about matters such as the proper comportment of a daughter. Mum delighted in using her as a cute little dress up doll, with pretty-in-pink stuff, which she sewed herself. Gretel was also supposed to enthusiastically help with the household chores and display great eagerness for acquiring the vital attributes of a good little housewife and mother. Gretel preferred to wear her brother’s trousers, climb trees, play Cowboys and Indians with the boys and generally roam around the local woods with the gang.

Hansel however was eager to help Mum. Mum rewarded him greatly for this and emphatically pointed this out to Gretel at every opportunity. Yet Hansel’s life was not all plain sailing either. Tears and tantrums when his fingernails and toenails needed trimming and the visit to the barber was a nightmare. He was the first kid in town to sport a Beatles mop hairstyle and embrace floral hippy outfits with great abandon. For his Confirmation (at fourteen) he insisted on a ruffled shirt. He was constantly reminded that his sister won prizes in school and she was only a girl whereas he was to be a future breadwinner.

There were some positive aspects to their lives. Hansel and Gretel could and did play with each

other’s toys. Gretel loved the construction sets and Hansel loved the dolls.

Being of the same size, they also wore each other’s clothes, although Hansel was discreet about the dresses.

The teenage years brought some real heartbreak. Gretel was not into girls, except as genuine girlfriends. Being perceptive and clever, she had no problems making friends.

She really liked boys, but not for making out. Her most notorious moment was dumping the local super stud within half an hour of his

o v e r t u r e s .  
I n t e l l e c t u a l  
d i s c o u r s e w a s n o t  
w h a t h e w a s a f t e r  
(o r c a p a b l e o f).

Hansel was not into boys and being his usual charming self had no problems with girls. Hansel’s downfall was that he was always eager to please, and so was used and dumped.



Ill. by MBit

Gretel was bored with slow-witted teachers and her marks dropped. Neither parents nor teachers could be bothered, since she was bound for wedded bliss as soon as she left high school. Mum quickly found a suitable son-in-law.

He promptly tried to have his way with Gretel, who fled the scene after he switched off the light on a moonless night in a lonely hut on the Mediterranean coast. How did Gretel get into this mess? Don’t ask: it was one of those moments in life one wants to forget.

Gretel decided there and then to get away... out of town to university. She studied English which proved to be immensely useful for escaping her family’s clutches by going to the other end of the world. Hansel’s fate was not easy either. The poor kid had to survive conscription, which existed then in his home country. He hated hurting people, let alone being trained to kill them. After a hard fought battle with officialdom, he was accepted as a conscientious objector.

Is there a happy ever after, I hear you ask? Well, not quite, but both Hansel and Gretel are still around and surprisingly sane.

Hansel is still living in his hometown, married with three kids. He has decided not to take things further at this time.

Gretel lives in Australia and is also married. He had no choice but to start transition. Who knows what the future may bring?

Due to personal matters he is kind of stuck somewhere halfway, but has nonetheless found some contentment in his life. □□□

## CYNDI LAUPER LYRICS

### True Colours

**You with the sad eyes  
Don't be discouraged  
Oh, I realise  
It's hard to take courage  
In a world full of people  
You can lose sight of it all  
And the darkness inside you  
Can make you feel so small.**

**But I see your true colours  
Shining through  
I see your true colours  
And that's why I love you  
So don't be afraid to let them show  
Your true colours  
True colours are beautiful  
Like a rainbow.**

**Show me a smile then,  
Don't be unhappy, can't remember  
When I last saw you laughing  
If this world makes you crazy  
And you've taken all you can bear  
You call me up  
Because you know I'll be there.**

**And I'll see your true colours  
Shining through  
I see your true colours  
And that's why I love you  
So don't be afraid to let them show  
Your true colours  
True colours are beautiful  
Like a rainbow.**

**Gender  
Centre  
Barbecue**

**Saturday 5 July**

**Joseph Sargeant  
Community Hall**

**60 Prospect Street,  
Erskineville**

**12 noon to 4.00 pm**



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with gender issues (*Ask for the  
Outreach Worker*)

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Spoons  
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Syringes  
1ml, 2.5ml,  
5ml  
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21g, 23g,  
25g, 26g

or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr  
advice, information and referral service. Sydney  
02 9331 2111  
Country 009.42.2599

**The ACON Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project can be contacted on (02) 9206 2116 or Freecall 1800 063 or [avp@acon.org.au](mailto: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 World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care (formerly known as 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.glcsnsw.org.au)



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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



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## APOLOGY

This issue of *Polare* is late for technical reasons. The computers on which *Polare* is composed failed and a serious amount of prepared material was lost.

Dealing with the mechanical (or electronic) problems has been time-consuming, made more complex by your Editor having a long-standing commitment to visit the United States for a month commencing on 26 March.

In my absence, Ashley Caccamo will be working on *Polare* and credit will be due to her for its arrival and for its appearance.

Katherine Cummings, Editor

# Young Women's Group Programme 2014

19th of February

## INTRODUCTION!

Here we will be introducing ourselves to the rest of the group. Getting to know new faces, participate in some light activities and also talking about what plans are ahead with our new group.



19th of March

## CHANGING GENDER - MY STORY

This month we will be talking about gender and our stories. Ashley will talk about her transition and growing up, as well as a volunteer speaker who will share their personal story. We will also be discussing gender and how it affects us in our daily lives and what it means to us.



23rd of April

## PASSING PRACTICALS



This month the group will divide into two groups and talk about passing, and what this means. You will have the chance to participate in workshops exploring different elements relating to passing.

21st of May

## SUPPORT & FAMILY

This meeting we will look at the importance of support where should we find support? What type of support do we need? And how to help your family and friends understand what you're going through.



18th of June

## DATING & SEXUALITY

This month we will discuss the complexities of being gender diverse and dating, as well as sexuality.



23rd of July

## BULLYING & HARASSMENT

This meeting will be focusing on bullying & harassment and how we can find support, where we should go to keep safe of times of bullying & harassment. This can be a difficult topic to explore, so we will aim to create a space where everyone feels safe and supported.



20th of August

## SELF DEFENCE CLASS

This month a self defence lesson is going to take place. Although you may never need it, you will be taught how to defend yourself should the need arise.



17th of September

## EMPLOYMENT & LEGAL OBSTACLES

During this month, participants will have the opportunity talk about work and legal obstacles which might be faced on a day to day basis.



22nd of October

## OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS

The group will not have a theme for this week and will be left open for participants to pick what they would like to do. This can be a social activity, or exploring a particular topic of conversation.



19th of November

It's been a year! Time for good byes, reflection over some food on the 8th of

**Kailey and Katherine Cummings** [with apologies to *My Fair Lady*]

**KC:** Matt Kailey is a brilliant man who writes informed columns in response to questions from his readers. He has given me permission to quote his columns, provided I acknowledge the source and provide anyone interested with his Internet address. Here it is:  
**tranifesto.com**

**Read him. Enjoy his style. Learn from him it. Think about his opinions. Respond to them.**

**In this case I do not agree with Matt’s stand on the word “transgendered”. Now read on:**

**A reader wrote:** “*As a transgender man who transitioned about five years ago, I have been hearing the conversation about the word ‘transgendered’ (with the ‘ed’ on the end), and would like to know:*

1. *Why the ‘-ed’ on the end?*
2. *Why do people take issue?”*

**Matt replies:** Don’t even get me started. Oops – too late.

I have had an issue with this for many years, and I have written about it before, but that was a while ago, so I will reiterate for those who are not aware of my feelings about this.

When I started transition (in 1997), “transgendered” was the appropriate term.

**KC: When I started transition (in 1986) “transsexual” was the appropriate term. This is the English language. Things change and sometimes they change back. There are fashions brought about by the passage of time and there are cultural and/or geographic influences on language.**

**Matt:** You will see it throughout my book *Just Add Hormones: An Insider’s Guide to the Transsexual Experience*. It is grammatically correct, it sounds right, and it makes the most sense as an adjective, which is what it is.

While not all adjectives take an “ed,” “gender” does. I am a gendered person. If I am a gendered person, then it would follow that I would be a



**Matt Kailey**

transgendered person (although I don’t identify in this way – I identify as a transsexual person).

**KC:** I think “transsexual” is past its use by date. The word is misleading because it suggests there is a sexual basis to gender identity affirmation, and ties it to “heterosexual”, “h o m o s e x u a l”, “asexual” and “bisexual”. A transgender can be any of these. In some jurisdictions one cannot proceed to the logical completion of gender role affirmation without having irreversible genital surgery that effectively removes the option of procreative sexual behaviour for all time.

**Matt:** I am left-handed, not left-hand. I am brown-eyed, not brown-eye. I was married, not marry, and now I am divorced, not divorce. Sometimes I get tired (not tire) of the whole argument, and I have gotten to the point where I am determined (not determine) to leave it alone – except when it comes up, as it has here.

Somewhere between 1997 and today, “transgendered” became a negative term. It wasn’t just that people began to prefer the term “transgender” because the tongue didn’t have to do as much work. It became offensive. Some of the reasons that were given to me for this offense were that the “ed” signified that being transgender:

- was something that the person had done and was finished (not finish) with.
- was something that had happened (not happen) to the person, rather than something ongoing that the person is.
- was something negative, like being divorced (which is not necessarily negative, depending on the situation).

**KC:** I never thought of the word “transgendered” as having negative connotations, other than the generalised negativity asserted by the denizens of the



**Dark Side who oppose anything to do with gender variance. I agree that the use of “transgendered” has overtones of a person having had some process applied to them rather than their having initiated and controlled the process, and a misleading passivity may be inferred.**

**But I don’t think that is why the word “transgender” has sidled into place as a noun. Parts of speech in English tend to be somewhat plastic (e.g. nouns become verbs, as in the use of “action” as a verb. “Let us action this”, rather than “Let us act on this”. I don’t like it, but I recognise it and I can’t be too fussed by it when there are whole worlds to be put right out there.**

**Matt:** None of these arguments make sense to me, but it doesn’t matter. GLAAD officially made “transgender” the correct term in its media guide, and in July 2009, I gave up my long battle to continue using the “ed” word in this blog.

The only person I know who has vocally and publicly fought the same battle to be grammatically correct is Pauline Park. She might have given in as well, like I did, but I think she still brings it up from time to time. She has more energy than I do.

The thing that I really don’t like about “transgender” as an adjective, other than the fact that it’s not correct, is that I believe that it lends itself to “noun-ization.” I believe that this is the reason why media outlets and others think that “transgender” is a noun – it must be a noun, because otherwise it would follow standard grammatical rules and be “transgendered.”

**KC: What is wrong with being a noun? As I said, English is plastic anyway, and sometimes it simplifies itself. “Bus” used to be “omnibus” and “phone” used to be “telephone”. I think the prefix “trans-” makes a difference, too.**

**Consider the word “national” which can be an adjective or a noun. If a person moves from one nationality to another they are presumably a “transnational” which is a noun constructed similarly to “transgender” to describe a person who has moved from one gender to another.**

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**Matt:** And so we get “A transgender was attacked today in Central Park,” “Mayor John Smith came out as a transgender,” and “A group of transgenders was seen outside the bar before the melee.” When I see stuff like this, I blame the media for not paying attention, but I also blame those who fought so valiantly to have the “ed” dropped. If we want to change the language so that it doesn’t make sense to the average person, then we have to live with the consequences.

**KC: I suspect the “average person” is pococurantic but will catch the drift.**

**Matt:** I will no doubt get some angry comments regarding this post. But I’m not telling my long-time readers anything that they don’t already know about me. I made a conscious decision to drop the “ed,” and I have put my own feelings about this on the burner farthest to the back in my mind. But I will never change my mind. I will only change my language to avoid offending others, because the feelings of my readers are more important to me than being chief of the grammar police.

**KC: Never angry, Matt. In disagreeemnt occasionally, but testing ideas refines them and language is important. I’m not sure that GLAAD (or anyone else, including me) has the right to pontificate on what is “correct” but I think they (and I) have the right to recommend a view and defend it. Did GLAAD provide supporting arguments for its decisions? Or hand them down out of a cloud?**

**Matt:** But as long as we’re on the subject ...

Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado (yes, we like our state name here), has changed the gender choices on its job applications to be more inclusive. Now the college is offering these choices to check under Gender: Male, Female, Transgender, Queer, and Not Disclosed.

I think that’s very forward thinking of them. The problem is that, in my opinion, none of these choices are actually genders.

Male and Female are sex designations. Transgender is a term that some people use to define their identity, and that others use to refer



to a clinical diagnosis. Queer refers to sexual orientation. And Not Disclosed is, of course, an “Other” option.

**KC: I agree. It is a constant bemusement that those who devise forms can misunderstand gender, sex and sexuality so comprehensively.**

**Matt:** I suppose there are some people who define their gender as “transgender,” but I don’t see that as a gender. It might be a gender identity for some, but it’s not a gender.

**KC: It’s closer to being their gender history than their gender.**

**Matt:** And according to the *Denver Post*, Colorado College defines “queer” as “[a]n umbrella term describing people who have a non-normative gender identity, sexual orientation, or sexual anatomy – includes lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, asexual people, transgender people, intersex people, etc.”

Excuse me? Since when did all these groups opt in for inclusion under this “umbrella term”? They all didn’t, apparently, because gay male job applicant John Kichi is filing a complaint after just seeing the word on the application.

**KC: Tch! There will always be some recalcitrant who thinks he or she has individual human rights! And even the right to self-definition!**

**Matt:** And since when does “queer” refer to sexual anatomy? I know a few intersex people who would probably be just as pissed as Mr. Kichi.

My understanding of “queer” is that it is a reclaimed word used primarily to define sexual orientation or attraction. Genderqueer is used in terms of gender. But apparently, like transgender losing its “ed,” the language has once again shifted.

**KC: The trouble with “reclaimed” words is that they are not reclaimed for everyone and become a source of confusion for those who are still floundering around in the old meaning and unaware of the word’s bright new makeover. To suggest that “queer” is an umbrella term is inaccurate. “Queer” is**

**more like a miasmic fog that tries to fill the gaps and be all things to all people.**

**Matt:** Regardless, I still argue that none of these things is a gender. If people are using “queer” as a gender identity, or just an identity in general, I can hang with that.

**KC: I can’t.**

**Matt:** Although I see it as a sexual orientation....

**KC: By definition an orientation points in a specific direction (technically East but I won’t push that interpretation). Queer does not point in any specific direction and should, therefore, not be seen as any form of orientation, nor any indication of direction, inclination or commitment.**

**Matt:** I do know some straight people who call themselves queer as an identity because they do not fit into the “straight, mainstream” mould that seems to be the only thing available to those with “opposite-sex” attractions and cisgender gender identities.

**KC: Now I *am* confused. If a person has opposite sex attraction and cisgender gender identity, do these factors not define them, as you put it, as fitting into the “straight mainstream”?**

**Matt:** If people are using “transgender” as a gender identity, I can hang with that, too.

**KC: I can’t. “Transgender” does not define a person’s gender identity. It provides information about a person’s past, current or future gender history, depending on whether they intend to transition, are transitioning, or have transitioned.**

**Matt:** And although “male” and “female” are sex designations, I could see someone saying, “I have a male gender identity, in that I identify as a man.”

**KC: “Male” and “female” are sex designations. Your hypothetical person could say “I have a masculine gender identity, in that I identify as a man,” and I would not demur.**

**Matt:** But while I commend Colorado College for taking the first step toward the future, I’m not sold on this random hodgepodge of choices.

**KC:** Indeed not. The list is, in fact, very similar to other lists I have seen where institutions set out to create a more reasonable approach to gender. They would be better off consulting the people who have been trying to cope with these problems for what seems like forever.

**Matt:** I have always advocated for fill-in-the-blank gender and sex designations on paperwork. I understand the difficulties of this, particularly when you are reporting to government agencies. If, however, you can expand your list to include transgender and queer, it seems to me that you can just offer a blank space for an applicant to fill in, and then lump the answers together into whatever categories the government deems acceptable.

Well, now that I got all that out, I can retire my language gripes for my death-bed. Hopefully, by then, I will have narrowed down the things that I really need to worry about.

Okay, readers, hit me with your best shot.

**KC: Done it!**     

### For Those Who Live On The Central Coast of NSW

The DeepWater Practice in Woy Woy, run by Melissa Turner, has agreed to bulk-bill counselling clients who come with a GP referral and who mention that they are also clients of the Gender Centre.

The DeepWater Practice has a number of Psychologists and Psychotherapists on staff, including Kathy Paterson, who specialises in adolescents.

The normal cost for a session without referral and Gender Centre connection is \$85.00 so there is a significant saving involved.

Deepwater Practice,  
Unit 2, 101 Blackwall Road,  
Woy Woy.    Ph: 4344 7386

## RPA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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,  
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**02 9571 4333**

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

[www.healtheducationcentre.com](http://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](mailto:adbcontact@agd.nsw.gov.au)

**Make a complaint**

Visit our website at: [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb)  
 to download a complaint form.  
 Email [complaintsadb@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:oiaustralia@bigpond.com)**

**or visit our website at [www.oiaustralia.com](http://www.oiaustralia.com)**



**It's a right, not a privilege** by Neil Lightfoot

According to preliminary findings on Transgender Equality research conducted in the US in 2009, transgender individuals experience double the average rate of unemployment. Ninety-seven per cent of those surveyed reported having experienced harassment or mistreatment on the job, forty-seven per cent experienced an adverse job outcome, such as being fired, not hired or denied a promotion and, sadly, fifteen per cent experienced high rates of poverty (living on \$10,000 a year or less\*).

So if you are working and thinking about transitioning who wouldn't be afraid?

Sitting somewhat uncomfortably in my office in my designer costume playing the role of a successful female senior manager for a very conservative organisation in the mid 2000s, I was unaware of these statistics as this research had yet to be conducted. I was, however, instinctively aware of the perils of homophobia, racism, generalised xenophobia and conservatism in Australia and, like any other person who is challenged by gender dysphoria, I managed to work and survive in this culture by subscribing to a fear-based code of shame and silence.

Over the years, I had perfected my female pantomime role to a 't'. This duplicity, however, eventually eroded my relationship with myself and the world about me and after a few decades of repression, my resilience waned and the weight of truth forced me to take the decision to transition, which has proven to be both liberating and costly. A major cost and the focus of this article was transition's effect on my work.

My career as I knew it just went out the door. In hindsight, and what I wish to stress, is that it did not have to be this way. I was crippled by deep-seated shame, some of it generational, but most of it familial and pathological.

Instead of trying to find a way through it and open up a dialogue, I took a redundancy cheque and ran straight to the barber shop on King St, Newtown, swapped my dark curly locks for a number 7 whilst I cried my eyes out. I still go there to this day, albeit with more hair on my face than on my crown and, thankfully, no tears. Thank God for testosterone. I can reflect on this

moment and have some compassion for my somewhat adolescent response to this stress. I just couldn't cope at the time. Over the next few months, I went completely stealth (as if you can actually do that when puffed up on testosterone and squeaking like a chipmunk), changed my name, my paperwork and wrote the most difficult and important correspondence of my life, a letter to my former boss asking her if she would be my referee.

To her credit, she told me that it made 'no difference to [her] nor to your skills or abilities or you as a person' so she happily endorsed me. Her main concern, revealed later through our continuing correspondence, was her curiosity as to how I was going to get a 'willy'. Her openness and support as a referee was crucial and I will be forever grateful. She did not abandon me.

As time went by, I found work doing government contracts in between surgeries and tried to keep my head above water. To my chagrin, the irregularity in my work history, created by my need for surgery and resultant time off, started to have a continuity and economic impact that still haunts me today. This was further complicated by my burden of extreme shame.

I felt caught between a rock and hard place; between the expression of my truth and the reality of having experienced the excruciatingly painful repercussions of transphobia that had occurred over the ensuing months and years from my family, who had completely disowned me, and some of my former, less evolved, friends who did the same.

To protect myself, I withdrew and decided to never reveal my truth. I mistakenly assumed all recruiters and potential employers would be as transphobic and cruel as the people closest to me. I did not grant them the opportunity to consider my truth and then make a choice to accept me or reject me, which I now understand was a rather self-defeating strategy.

I failed to consider that there could be a different way of approaching transitioning in the workplace or developing more transparency and confidence in my approach. I never asked what others were doing or what organisations existed

(outside of the Gender Centre) that could help. I never appealed to the law for protection. Perhaps it was a generational aversion to airing my business in public. I am not sure. Perhaps I should have Googled it. What I do know now, years later, is that some people have had successful transitions in the workplace by being open and they have maintained their employment and economic continuity despite their personal losses. I took a lone, shame-based approach and I do not recommend it.

During December, 2013, I was invited to attend ACON's Pride in Practice Conference at the Mercure Hotel, Sydney, on behalf of the Gender Centre, and was thrilled to see a modest turnout from the big end of town including banks, insurance companies and an assortment of corporate businesses, NSW and Federal government agencies, NFPs and NGOs.

My biggest surprise, having gone through the infamous and painful homophobic witch-hunts in the defence forces as a youngster in the 80's, and losing my job because I was a lesbian, was the enthusiastic participation of members of the Royal Australian Navy and Army.

I managed to spend some time with some of them over lunch and we talked about transitioning in the services and their diversity policies. I must admit, I walked away feeling very validated and optimistic. Things can change. These serving members mentioned that the tone of the conversation within these highly conservative cultures has changed drastically and whilst not perfect by any means, having a legislated framework in place to protect serving members from discrimination, has gone a long way to reduce the type of silent devastation of young lives that I witnessed as a serving member over twenty years ago.

It is possible to transition in the defence force and retain your job. Never in a million years would I have thought that possible.

Each year NSW Pride in Diversity also hold awards at the conference for businesses who demonstrate excellence in diversity practice in the workplace. The two day conference also featured a number of presentations with keynote speakers and academics, break-out sessions and facilitated workshops. The Gender Centre's Senior Case Manager, Liz Ceissman, led the opening forum on the first day which focused on transitioning in the workplace. During her opening remarks, Liz suggested that retaining

talented transgender workers affords them the dignity of a future and economic viability. She also stressed that transitioning in the workplace is legally mandated through the process of a change of identity and is not necessarily dependent on surgery.

The forum panel included speakers who had successfully transitioned in the workplace. Their key takeaway messages included an emphasis on the importance of realising that the transitioning person bears primary responsibility and how crucial it is to not be caught up in a mood of entitlement and demand.

The panel also expressed the importance of establishing clear communication and respect for both the employer and employee. Careful planning and timing were also highlighted as was the importance of ensuring that expectations such as correct use of pronouns and use of facilities were not unrealistic. While it is frustrating for those transitioning, employers, colleagues and friends do need time to adjust.

Members of the audience participated in the Q&A enthusiastically and feedback during the breakout sessions after the forum was extremely positive. A common response was that participants did not realise the enormity of transition, nor could they ever gauge the challenges that transgender folks endure to stay in active employment. There is much more to it as we know, but I'll take that response with gratitude. Awareness at any level is gold.

For me personally, and I fully acknowledge my



Liz Ceissman at  
Pride in Practice

‘ostrich status’; I was overwhelmed by the openness and willingness of participants to discuss transgender issues and transitioning in the workplace.

I sat in on a breakout session with HR and diversity leaders entitled ‘Commencing the Journey’, which was a geared discussion on best practice and lessons learned for businesses starting the process of incorporating transgender and diversity issues into their IR and HR frameworks. There was a great deal of knowledge and experience at the table and shared experiences provided significant insight for those practitioners just starting the policy journey. This honest discourse was personally liberating and while it may have been a bit grandiose of me, I came out and quietly announced my transgender status to these participants who as it turned out, didn’t give a toss. This was an enormous step towards reducing my burden of shame. I can reflect candidly now on my naivety and fear and as I grow in confidence, I realise that the truth is best served seriously chilled, and at any time.

Conferences like these are a sign of things changing and an indication that transgender issues and workplace transitioning are making it onto the diversity agenda of business and government agencies. This change is also an opportunity to send a clear message to our community that we do not have to walk away in shame, nor lose our livelihoods just because we change our gender.

A trade certificate, diploma, PhD, Master’s or Bachelor’s degree, is still your achievement, and your years of experience don’t just go away with a shot of testosterone or patch of estrogen. We should stand with pride and hold on to what we have achieved and not add these achievements to the ‘past pile’ alongside the fallout, losses and secrets so many of us accumulate on this arduous, yet liberating, journey.

While the financial benefits of retaining employment are obvious, the opportunity to remain employed gives a person a sense of meaning and connectedness to wider society and a purpose. Without this, people are at risk of falling into the depths of despair and loss that erode personal dignity and respect and which

can lead to poverty, social exclusion and, in some cases, homelessness. In my opinion, every Australian has the right to work and the right to retain their personal and professional dignity.

The Gender Centre team have worked hard over the past years to assist clients in transition and this work has been extended to the establishment of working relationships with corporate businesses and Government services across Australia by providing specialised training for businesses that are constructing their diversity policies in order to cope with transitioning employees. During 2012/13, the team successfully provided training and assistance for nineteen organisations that had employees in the process of transition. This involves meetings and professional guidance on legal frameworks and obligations, facilitation of workshops, training materials and ongoing support. It is an area that has a lot of future potential for the Gender Centre and its clients. It is a vital service that can help progressive businesses avoid the socially devastating and morally reprehensible consequences of sending talented and experienced employees into poverty and ongoing despair.

There is no shame in being transgender. Walking the journey of transition and maintaining your employment and economic viability is a fundamental right, not a privilege and, as such, we have the legal right to fight to retain our employment if we have been productive members of an organisation.

Standing your ground is not about acceptance, it is about mandating tolerance in the workplace and the community at large which is legislated and afforded to any other minority or religious group in Australia. If you are struggling with how to come out at work and keep your job, or you are having some HR issues concerning your transition, or a business that would like to know how to create the conversation, please contact the Gender Centre for assistance on 9569 2366 and ask to speak to Liz.

#### **References**

\*2009 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, funded by National Centre for Transgender Equality and National Lesbian and Gay Taskforce. USA





## 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:  
aacsowp@aidSACTION.org.au

### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### NSWGENDERCENTRE

##### 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

##### (incorporating the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW)

A community-based, non-profit support organisation for people of diverse sexes, sexualities and genders, their families and communities

across NSW, providing telephone counselling (all ages), support groups, community education and a range of specialised support services for young people (12-26 years old).

For support call 1800 184 527 (QLife, daily 5.30pm-10.30pm) or (02) 8594 9555 (Sydney) or 1800 65 2010 (regional NSW, Twenty10, 10.00am-5.00pm Mon-Fri.

Admin enquiries (02) 8594 9550.

Email: [info@twenty10.org.au](mailto:info@twenty10.org.au)

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

##### ACONHEALTHLTD

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)

See: TWENTY10 (incorporating the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW)

### HIV AWARENESS AND HIV AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

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

### 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

### INNERCITY 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  
PO Box 22, Kings Cross, NSW, 1340  
Tel: (02) 9360.2766  
Fax: (02) 9360.5154

### 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

Clinic 180  
180 Victoria Street, Potts Point, 2011  
Tel: (02) 9357 1299  
Fax: (02) 9380 2382

Clinic 180 open  
**Monday to Saturday**  
1.30pm-9.00pm  
Needle syringe program  
Condoms

**Monday to Friday**  
1.30pm-9.00pm  
Sexual health screening  
HIV screening  
Hepatitis C testing, hepatitis B testing and vaccination  
First aid and wound care  
Counselling and social welfare assistance  
Drug and alcohol assessment and referral

### 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

# Directory Assistance

Issue Ninety-Nine

## 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. 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

## QLife

A national LGBTI Counselling and Referral Service providing confidential, anonymous, peer-supported telephone and web-based support services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgenderr and intersex (LGBTI) people of all ages.

Open daily from 5.30pm-10.30pm  
Free call: 1800 184 527  
Email: [ask@qlife.org.au](mailto:ask@qlife.org.au)  
Website: [www.qlife.org.au](http://www.qlife.org.au)

## 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 1200

## 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](mailto:SAGE_Foundation@yahoo.com)

## SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW

The Seahorse Society is a non-profit self-help group funded by members' contributions. Open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a newsletter.  
PO Box 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](mailto:infoswop@acon.org.au)  
[www.swop.org.au](http://www.swop.org.au)

## SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

Provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly people to get together in comfortable, safe and friendly spaces.

## SYDNEY MEN'S NETWORK

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

Tel: (02) 9565.4281 (info line)  
[sbn-admin@yahoo.com](mailto:sbn-admin@yahoo.com)  
<http://sbn.bi.org>

Pub social in Newtown on 3rd Sunday of every month followed by a meal. All welcome.  
POB 281 Broadway NSW 2007

## SYDNEY BISEXUAL PAGANS

Supporting, socialising and liberating 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 function, 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@saahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sshc@saahs.nsw.gov.au)

## SYDNEY WEST HIV/HEP C PREVENTION SERVICE

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

## TOWN & COUNTRY CENTRE

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

## WOLLONGONG TRAN

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

## WOMENS 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

## WOMENS AND GIRLS EMERGENCY CENTRE

174 Redfern Street, Redfern  
Tel: (02) 9319 4088

## 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](mailto:ausbinet@rainbow.net.au)  
[www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet](http://www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet)

### AISSUPPORT GROUP (AUSTRALIA)

Support group for Intersex people and their families. We have representatives in all Australian States.  
PO Box 1089  
Altona Meadows, VIC, 3028  
Tel: (03) 9315 8809  
[aissg@iprimus.com.au](mailto:aissg@iprimus.com.au)  
[www.vicnet.net.au/~aissg](http://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](http://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@iinet.net.au](mailto:email:knoble@iinet.net.au)  
[www.changelingaspects.com](http://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](http://www.ftmaustralia.org)  
[mail@ftmaustralia.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.truecolours.org.au)  
Email: [Mail@truecolours.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:president@agender.org.nz)  
[www.agender.org.nz](http://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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.genderbridge.org)  
[info@genderbridge.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:resources@gendercentre.org.au)