

POLARE



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MARCH 2016



MAGAZINE OF THE NSW GENDER CENTRE

The Gender Centre & Aurora Foundation present:

transtopia 2016

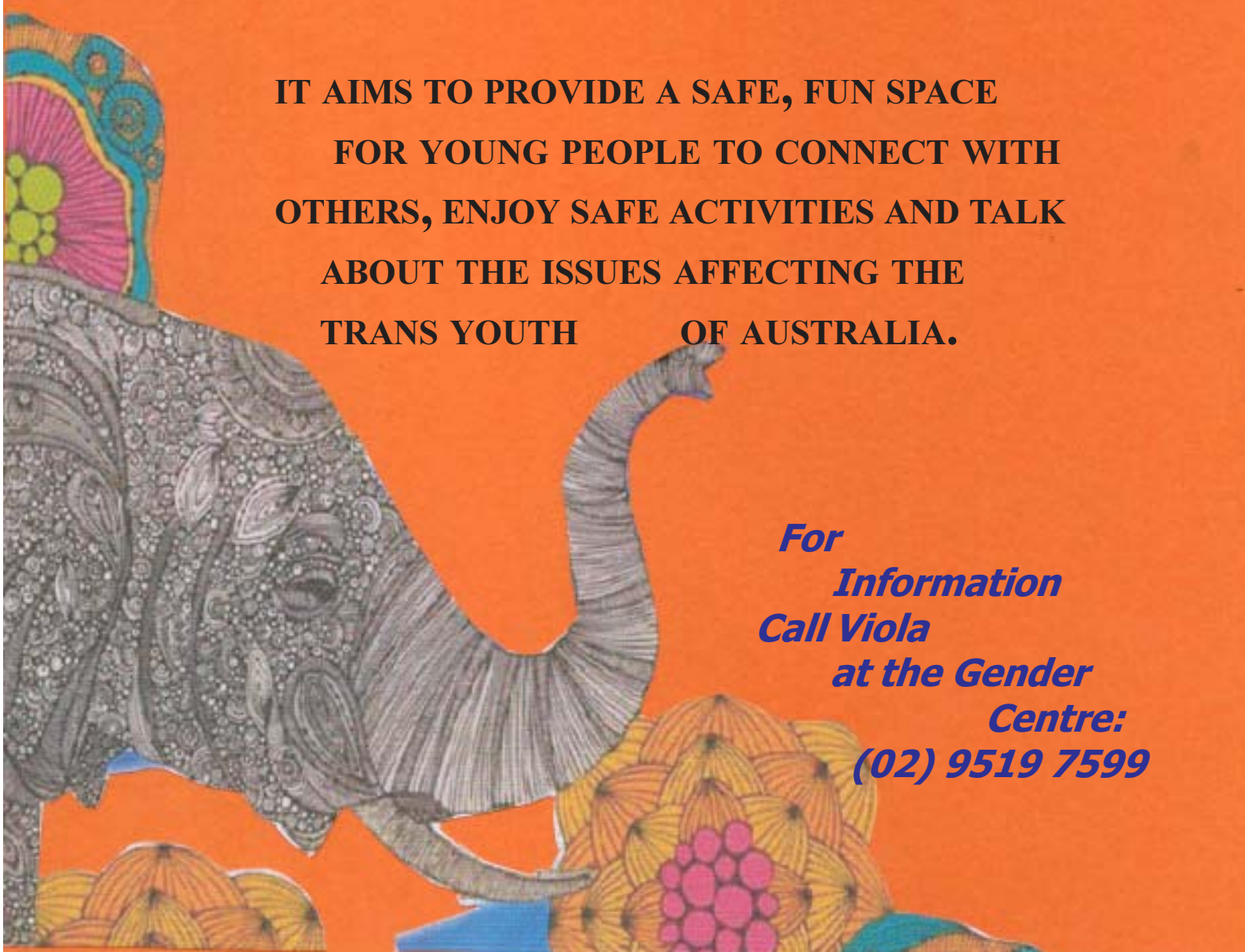
gender-questioning?

gender-queer?

‘TRANSTOPIA’ IS A MONTHLY GROUP TO BE HELD OVER TEN MONTHS IN 2016 FOR TRANSGENDER YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOURTEEN AND NINETEEN...

**IT AIMS TO PROVIDE A SAFE, FUN SPACE
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH
OTHERS, ENJOY SAFE ACTIVITIES AND TALK
ABOUT THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE
TRANS YOUTH OF AUSTRALIA.**

***For
Information
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at the Gender
Centre:
(02) 9519 7599***



Polare the Gender Centre Service Magazine

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

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

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

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

the Gender Centre

the place to go for confidential, free services for gender diverse people

**41-43 Parramatta Road,
Annandale
NSW 2038
Mail to:
PO Box 266
Petersham
NSW 2049**

Tel:(02) 9519 7599

**Outside Met. Sydney
1800 069 115 (9-4.30, M-F)
Fax: (02) 9519 8200**

**Email:
reception@gendercentre.org.au**

**Website:
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.



Front cover: Sergeant Valerie Wagstaff, whose story appears in this issue, was the keynote speaker at the Transgender Day of Remembrance in 2015. Her life's journey should be an inspiration for all and a role model for many. She is an example, not only of what can be achieved by a transgender woman determined to succeed, but also demonstrates that the NSW Police Force is working to support the LGBTI community and protect their human rights.

Gay and Lesbian Counselling

Telephone Counselling:

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Sydney Metro 8594 9596

Other areas of NSW 1800 184 527

❑ Lesbian line

Monday 5.30pm to 9.30pm

Sydney Metro 8594 9595

Other areas of NSW 1800 144 527

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

- Talking it out - Men's Discussion Group
- Women's Coming Out Group
- SMART Recovery Program
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For further information please contact GLCS Administration on:

(02) 8594 9500

Or via the website:

Website: www.glcsnsw.org.au

Or by mail:

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

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DEADLINE

for submissions to the next edition of *Polare* is
the eighth of March 2015

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THE FINE PRINT

Polare

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Another year gone and a new one started. Some losses and some gains. The gains have been significant, in areas of social acceptance, legal reform and medical advances.

The losses, sadly, have been human

losses, as some of our most effective and energetic activists have demonstrated that life is finite and death leaves us with new tasks and the fulfilment of duties that have been handled until now by the people of talent, intelligence and commitment. During 2015 we lost Paula Hartigan, a stalwart whose contribution to the transgender world started somewhere in the 1980s or earlier (in the first issue of *Polare*, dated September 1993, Paula refers to herself as “an old warhorse”) and continued until her health broke down and she finally took her rest. Early in my employment with the Gender Centre (I started in 2001) I took issue with Paula over some matter where I felt she had not gone the extra mile for a client, and took my complaint to Elizabeth Riley, the Manager. I was told in no uncertain terms that Paula was invaluable and that her judgement of what should or should not happen should be respected. I offered to resign but Elizabeth refused to accept my resignation, showing excellent judgement or else a complete lack of understanding of what a dork I was. I should perhaps add that later events demonstrated beyond doubt that Paula’s judgement of the event in question was right and I had been misled by a self-pitying drama queen of the first order.

We also lost Kathy Noble, whose energy in pursuing her campaign to revise the law in order to make it easier for trans men and women born in Britain to have their documentation revised was legendary. Toward the end of her life (2011) she wrote her autobiography (*Two Lives, a transsexual’s story and the fight for recognition*), and enhanced it with a collection of her writings and a few essays by others, all designed to

work as a text for those enrolling in Transgender 101, and including many of her activist strategies for improving the lot of transgender people.

It is a good book (when I reviewed it for *Polare* I said, “... Kathy’s book is ... a rich lode of vital information and her energy and dedication are to be admired by all ...”) and I am sure that many trans folk have benefited from it and from her other activities

On the positive side we have seen changes in legislative, medical and social aspects of transgender life in 2015, including Bills being presented in States and Territories designed to make surgical reassignment unnecessary as a prerequisite for affirmation in the new gender role, and legislation foreshadowed which will remove the requirement for married couples to divorce before a transgender partner can obtain revised documentation.

Passports can be obtained in the gender role of choice, whether that be male, female or ‘not specified’.

On the surgical front there has been steady progress, with new techniques for genital reassignment being developed and old ones modified. Perhaps two of the more exciting developments have been the successful transplants of uteri in Sweden and penises in South Africa. In both cases these have involved the transplant into a recipient who had been of the sex normally associated with the organs they received, which suggests that much more research will need to be carried out before a uterus can be successfully placed in a trans woman, or a penis added to a trans man. But the very fact that these transplants have taken place at all is a giant leap forward.

And so we come to social changes in the wonderful world of transgender.

I have said in recent editorials that we seem to be entering a period of enlightenment and reconciliation. I have also said that although the pendulum may have swung in our favour, and a tide of understanding has flooded the foreshores of ignorance, discrimination and bias (golly! there’s a metaphor a half!) it is nonetheless true that pendulums try to swing back and forth indefinitely and we should

make every effort to bring this one to a stop at a centre point where all things are equal, and not allow it to veer from one side to the other. As for the tide of understanding, let us dam it with vociferous praise and try and prevent it from receding again.

The wave of approval for all things T* is made obvious at this time by the nominations for Australian of the Year made by the States and Territories as a pool from which the national representatives will be chosen in time for announcement on Australia Day.

This year there is a remarkable number of nominations associated with sex, gender, transgender people and activism. New South Wales has nominated Elizabeth Broderick, the former sex discrimination Commissioner; Queensland has nominated Cate McGregor who came out as a trans woman in 2012 and is referred to in the nomination as a leader in the transgender community; the ACT has nominated David Morrison, former Head of the Army, who was a strong supporter of Cate McGregor and supported her continued employment in the armed services; Victoria nominated Julian McMahon, barrister and human rights advocate. The other four nominees are a burns doctor (SA), a conservationist (TAS), an international 'medical warrior' (WA) and a youth worker (NT). An MTF activist was a finalist in the preliminary nominations for Young Australian of the Year in Victoria, but was beaten to the nomination by another young Victorian with impeccable credentials.

Why this sudden surge of recognition for the transgender and gender diverse world? I have no idea, although I think the Caitlyn Jenner syndrome has something to do with it. If a person is a recognised celebrity and then comes out as trans their previous status in some way enhances the transition from one gender role to the other.

If the person has access to media endorsement then their position as a person of consequence is guaranteed. I am reminded of the French nineteenth-century politician, Alexandre Auguste Ledru-Rollin, who is reported as having said, "There go the people. I must

follow them, and find out where they are going because I am their leader."

There is a clear advantage in being well-known to the general public if you want to be nominated for honours such as these. Some years ago I nominated Elizabeth Riley, the manager of the Gender Centre, as Australian of the Year and the nomination sank like a stone, yet Elizabeth had spent years of her life selflessly devoting herself to the cause of transgender and gender diversity and had achieved remarkable reformations and enhancements within the Gender Centre and the services it provided. I put this down to a general lack of understanding on my part of the way in which media works, and a lack of the will to self-aggrandise on Elizabeth's part.

I am not saying it is a bad thing for people on the margins of the transgender world to find themselves the darling of the people. If some of that regard rubs off on the community as a whole that can only be a good thing. I am saying I wish more recognition came to the people who have devoted their lives to helping others rather than those who find themselves duchessed because they possess qualities irrelevant to their transgender status.

This issue of *Polare* contains an article by Jenny Boylan (reprinted with her kind permission) that praises Caitlyn Jenner for the good she has done, is doing and will be doing, none of which results from her having rich and powerful friends who can arrange for her to be made gorgeously glamorous and recorded for posterity by amazing photographers.

Do not mistake me. I have said before and I say again that Cate McGregor and Caitlyn Jenner made an incredibly brave decision when they decided to transition. But those who take the same decision without having a useful education, an established career and influential friends are taking a greater risk and are braver still. So why aren't they Australians (or Americans) of the Year?

Katherine



Dress for Success, Sydney, is a registered charity that seeks to improve the employability of NSW women in need by providing, free of charge, professional clothing, a network of support and the career development tools to help women achieve self-sufficiency.

Dress for Success has frequently assisted the Gender Centre's female clients as individuals. They have also hosted a number of groups from the Gender Centre, providing an afternoon of information, advice and styling. These events have been fun - see Steph's review, on the facing page of this issue of



Laurel Walter

Polare. The Over 55 Support Group plans to visit *Dress for Success* again in 2016. Let me know if you are interested.

Dress for Success also runs short workshops such as Resilience Training Styling for Interview, Computer Essentials, Makeup for Interview.

To attend *Dress for Success*, you need a referral. One of the Gender Centre Caseworkers can assist you with this.

Laurel Walter

over55support@gendercentre.org.au

NSW Seahorse Society



is a self help group based in Sydney open to all crossdressers, their relatives and friends. We offer discretion, private monthly social meetings, social outings, contact with other crossdressers, a telephone information service, postal library service and a monthly newsletter.
THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NSW INC
PO BOX 2193 BORONIA PARK, NSW 2111
Call on 0423 125 860 and our **website** is:
www.seahorsesoc.org
Email: crossdress@seahorsesoc.org

“crossdress with dignity”

“A lie can go halfway around the world while Truth is getting its boots on.”

Mark Twain

Hi my name is Steph and I would like to tell you all about my excursion with the Gender Centre to *Dress for Success*, arranged by Laurel Walter of the NSW Gender Centre.

I was feeling quite anxious and couldn't sleep very well the night before. I had that Roxette song looping round in my head for some reason, sad, yes I know, but I guess I'm just one of those gals...

I had no real idea that I was in for one of the most serendipitous and joyous days I've spent anywhere in a very long time.

We were made to feel very welcome by the staff of *Dress for Success*, and were each assigned a team of wonderful ladies to help transform us.

My team was the awesome and brilliant Trish and Wendy, and Sue joined in, helping to find me the perfect pair of Cinderella slippers. Lucky me.

I must say I did feel like a princess trying on all the amazing outfits and accessories that my wonderful team kept hunting down for me.

They were also dishing out praise and compliments, boosting my self-esteem till I thought my head would just swell up and explode.

Then it was hair and make-up time, and already I was feeling a million dollars, happy happy happy!

This was my first time ever having my hair or make-up done by someone who knew what they were doing, so I gained some useful tips. Yea!!

Then a group photo, all the ladies looked fantastic, and we were all allowed to keep two of the outfits we had tried on. *Bellissimo!*

We adjourned to the meeting room, where the lovely Emma explained to us the best ways to present at interviews, how to match clothing and hair colours to our skin types, posture and body types, how to cultivate and use positive attitudes and much, much more.



Stephanie

If all this were not enough we were all given a bag of toiletries and make-up to take home. Wow! talk about being spoilt. I received a very much needed confidence boost from all of this, and I feel very much more empowered than I did before.



Stephanie, Jillian, Georgie and Emma dressing for success

Hopefully my new style will open some doors for me.

Well, *Dress for Success*, I can only say that I love your work, and a mega-thanks to you and all of the gorgeous volunteers for this very special experience.

Big Mwahs Steph Xx.



RPA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

24 Marsden Street, Camperdown, NSW, 2050

PHONE: (02) 9515 1200

WHAT DOES THE SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC DO?

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

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

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

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

SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need an appointment? *Yes, an 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.

Farewell Muttley!

Guardian Angel, Loving Friend and Part-Time Wolf

There is no doubt in my mind that those of us who share our lives with four-legged friends (it is patronising to call them 'pets') are blessed with the kind of unconditional love we find so seldom in human society.

Sometimes the friend is more than just a friend. When a small, lost, Jack Russell puppy moved in with Julia Doulman sixteen years ago, acquiring the name Muttley in the process, he was to become her constant companion, and, on more than one occasion, quite literally her only reason for living. He will also be remembered by many for his starring role in the film *Becoming Julia*.

Muttley was a quiet, intelligent, loving dog (although I suspect he saw himself as more of a wolf. He was certainly a very large dog in a small body). He gave generously of himself and his time and coexisted happily with the humans and other animals in his life.

Muttley died at the age of sixteen on December 22, 2015 and will forever be missed by those who knew him. KC



hepatitis C

The hepatitis C virus is a member of the flavivirus family of ribonucleic acid (RNA) viruses. The virus reproduces by making many copies of itself in liver cells.

The hepatitis C virus does not kill liver cells directly, but the immune response initiated by the presence of the virus in the liver can cause liver inflammation and cell death. (Farrell, G.C. 2002).

There are six main genotypes (strains) of hepatitis C. Each genotype contains numerous subtypes, labelled a, b, or c. Genotypes 1a and 1b (54% prevalence) and 3a (37% prevalence) are the most common genotypes in Australia. (McCaw, R., et al. 1997)

Hepatitis C was discovered by scientists in 1988 and found to be responsible for most of the cases of 'non-A, non-B hepatitis'. Early studies confirmed that hepatitis C was spread through blood-to-blood contact.

An accurate test to diagnose hepatitis C became available in Australia in 1990. The test detected antibodies produced in reaction to the hepatitis C virus.

It is estimated that 130-150 million people worldwide are chronically infected with hepatitis C. (WHO Hepatitis C Fact Sheet). In Australia, it is estimated that 230,470 are living with chronic hepatitis C. (Kirby Institute, Annual Surveillance Report (ASR) 2015 - p12)

The estimated number of new cases diagnosed of hepatitis C infection has declined from 16,000 in 2001 to 10,261 in 2011. The majority of these had hepatitis C for some time.

In 2011, 60% of newly acquired hepatitis C infections (within that last two year) were identified as having resulted from unsafe injecting drug use. The number of new infections where the exposure category was undetermined increased to 106 from 75 in 2010. The remaining people with hepatitis C were infected in other ways, including:

- unsterile tattooing or body piercing procedures

- unsterile medical procedures or vaccinations (particularly in countries with high rates of hepatitis C)

- needle-stick injuries and accidental exposure to infected blood or blood products

- exposure to blood in the home

- some other form of blood-to-blood contact.

Some people with hepatitis C cannot identify how they were infected.

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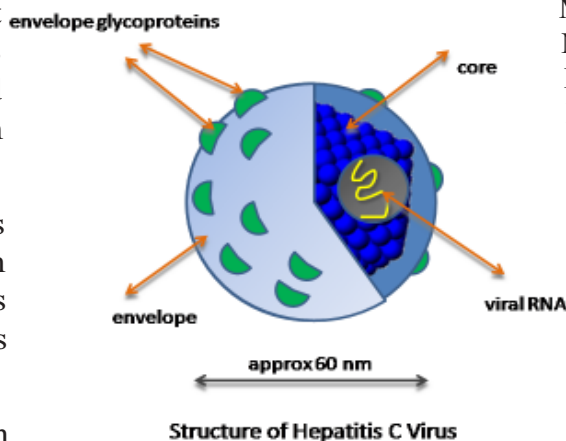
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Gender Centre Interest Groups

If you are M2F;
F2M; Over 55;
Queer; Youth
Group (aged
between 14 and
19); Young Female
(under thirty-five);
or Parents of a
Transgender Child,
then there is a
group at the
Gender Centre
tailored for you.
Groups usually
meet once a
month.

Call the Gender
Centre for details

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

**The Editor would like to receive
more contributions from our
readers. Letters, articles, opinions
and life experiences are all
welcome.**



2016

FTM Australia is a peer-based national Australian network offering contact, support and information for men identified female at birth. We have provided quality reliable information since 2001.

OzGuys

Register with the FTM Australia website to access this online community based Q and A group where you can ask questions, find answers and make contact with others.

Health and Service Providers (HSP) list

Find helpful medical service providers like GPs, endocrinologists, surgeons and others to support you in your transition journey by registering with the FTM Australia website.

Torque

Subscribe to our electronic bulletin - Torque .
[http://www.ftmaustralia.org/
publications/network-news-
subscribe](http://www.ftmaustralia.org/publications/network-news-subscribe)

Australian social, medical and legal information for men transitioning female-to-male.
<http://www.ftmaustralia.org/>

Valerie Wagstaff Tells Her Story

Issue One Hundred and Six

On 20 November, the Transgender Day of Remembrance, when those of our community who have lost their lives during the year are remembered and honoured, an observance was held by the transgender community and allies at the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. There were a number of speakers and the event has been written up elsewhere in this issue. The keynote speech, by Sergeant Valerie Wagstaffe of the NSW Police was, however, so inspiring that we asked her to allow us to reproduce it in this issue of Polare. It is not only inspiring, it is also good-humoured, even funny, despite having a deep undercurrent of emotional maturity that can only help those of us in need of the knowledge that there is always a way forward and a hope for reformation of our human rights and an acceptance of us within the larger framework of society. Valerie is a genuine trail-blazer and we are honoured to have her words on these pages. Now read on:

*Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.
Kia ora – hello to you all.*

Thank you for inviting me here today. It is a great honour and privilege to be asked by the transgender community and the NSW Police force to say a few words on this special day that commemorates our brothers and sisters, who have died as a result of transgender hatred or prejudice.

I was born in 1965, to wonderful parents, Hugh (of Welsh descent) and Becky Wagstaff (of Maori descent). I was the third son, with my brothers, Gary and Michael, preceding me, and my younger brother, Trev, arriving five years later.

I guess my childhood was quite typical of a transgender child, I loved to help mum with all the chores around the house and would often mimic her when she was in the kitchen or carrying out her domestic duties. Of course, I only have fragmented memories of my early years, but I do have a distinct recollection of preferring traditional ‘girly’ activities and disliking any ‘boyish’ activities.

This didn’t go down well in New Zealand in the 60’s and 70’s, a country obsessed with Rugby Union and steeped in patriarchal traditions.

My inclinations led to some problems when, at five, I headed off to school. As you can imagine,

any pretty sissy boy with a girly voice who rocks up to school in South Auckland and wants to play skipping games and hang out with the girls, went somewhat against the grain, and in some instances led to bullying and being ostracised.

Institutional gender conventions eventually kicked in, and by the time I reached the age of seven or eight, I found myself in a position where I was forced to make the inevitable choice between playing either rugby or soccer.

I took the only preferred option available to me and hid in a closet during sports period!

That option didn’t last long, when one of my teachers, Mrs Howlett, found me hiding in the cupboard and sprung me. She was sympathetic to my plight, but I eventually had to make the inevitable choice, so I chose soccer, as it involved chasing boys around the field with consent!

I was pretty hopeless at sport. I actually remember once after running really hard in a race and coming second last! That was quite an achievement in my book. It didn’t matter that the boy who came last, Martin, had an injured leg on the day. I didn’t come last, and that made it memorable. I also remember having a ‘best friend’ Lucy, who was a bit of a gun on the athletics track, winning lots of ribbons and prizes for coming first. We tried to negotiate with her mother to give me one of her winning ribbons so I could go home with a prize to make mum and dad think I was cool. Unfortunately, Lucy’s mum wouldn’t have a bar of it, but it was worth a crack.

There were many times in my childhood that people thought I was a girl, even into my early teens. Although this would often lead to embarrassment on my part, as it was usually in front of my relatives and friends, inside I secretly relished such mistakes as they validated my belief that I should have been a girl and not a boy.

The years rolled on, and I became quite the illusionist, hiding my gender confusion from the world, emanating happiness and vitality on the outside and hiding the pain that burnt away inside. Anyway, in 1988, I moved to

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Issue One Hundred and Six

Sydney, Australia, and a few years later I secured a job with State Transit as a bus driver.

In 1992, I finally plucked up the courage, and commenced my transgender journey, starting with a transgender friendly GP in Petersham, who, in turn, led me to the Gender Centre, a refuge that was in my opinion, a Godsend, as I could meet other people that shared similar issues and experiences.

Eventually I came to the point where I had to pick my new girl-name. After searching through a name book, I settled on the name of Valerie, a name derived from the French word, 'Valor', meaning bold and brave, which I thought was quite appropriate, given the undertaking before me.

I remember the first time I walked into work at the Randwick Bus Depot. I was extremely nervous, but equally excited and relieved as I was finally going to be the person who I really wanted to be. I was dressed to the max, full on make-up, bouffant hairstyle, short skirt, tight fitting blouse. I must have looked like a real tart.

As a bus driver I was sometimes confronted by challenging moments. You can imagine how the school runs went. By and large, I got by, but one day one of the kids sprung me, and that was it.....the word spread....and it was not unusual from that point on for me to turn up to a school with all the college kids chanting, "It's she-man".

On another occasion, I recall a man confronting me when I was driving the bus and calling me an abomination. After he left, a female passenger on the same bus came and gave me a bunch of flowers saying, "you're beautiful, you can have these". That was an emotional rollercoaster of a day, I can tell you.

I understand what it means to be subjected to such hatred, and sometimes it is overwhelming but remember this ... for every person who is hateful to you, there are many, many more who will give you the support, respect and love that you deserve.

For a while I worked as a courier for a motor cycle company, where the boss's son would harass me on a daily basis in relation to being

transgender, after a customer (who happened to be a bus driver I had worked with) told him about me.

Every day I would make my deliveries and pickups, and he would be standing there in front of everyone, calling me 'Victor/Victoria', and making me feel less than human with his cruel torments and putdowns. What was I to do? He was the boss's son. I could lose my job if I lashed out. I wouldn't be able to support myself or pay the rent. But one day, as is often the case, I finally cracked. I couldn't take the harassment and humiliation any more. I said, "You're nothing but a coward. I'm not afraid of you. I'm more of man than you'll ever be.".... and pushed him aside ... and said, "I don't know about you luv, but I've got bloody work to do."

Do you know that all the guys in that workplace came up to me later and congratulated me for standing up for myself. I thought I would lose my job for sure, but that bully never hassled me again....and I stayed in that job until something better came along.

About 1996, I was seriously considering a career in the NSW Police. I was a little apprehensive about pursuing this career choice but, despite my fears, I decided to throw caution to the wind and give it a shot.

Of course, I had to disclose my past to the relevant authorities in the NSW Police but, thankfully, this wasn't a big deal and I was accepted into the NSW Police Academy where I took part in the rigorous training program. Despite not participating in academic study for fifteen years, I managed to complete the program, was attested in March 1999 and started shortly after at Newtown Police Station.

Of course there have been a number of times during my service that I have found myself in awkward and challenging situations with regard to my transgender status.

I was going to gloss over the next incident, although I think it's healthy to share some of the 'not so good moments' as we can all learn from them, and I guess it's important for people to know that I too, even as a transgender police officer, can still be subjected to intimidation

and bullying, just because I am who I am. And it's not something I should feel awkward or ashamed to talk about. It's just what happens out there in the real world for transgender people.

An incident occurred when I was training at the Police Academy. I was very studious, but on one occasion I decided to join my fellow cadets for a drink at the local watering-hole, just opposite the Police Academy. While there, I was confronted by an off-duty police officer with a couple of his mates standing behind him. He turned to me and gripped my wrist tightly, and said to me, "I know what you are, you're a dirty fuckin' tranny".

I remember being shocked and having this moment of panic, thinking I could knock this guy's block off, or I could just walk away. Luckily, I brushed him off saying words to the effect of, "I don't need this shit", and walked past him.

I tell you, I was afraid that I would be in trouble if I retaliated. I was just a student police officer, not yet graduated, and he was a fully fledged Constable with a few of his mates (I should say they all looked very uncomfortable...and they looked confused about why he was confronting this attractive woman and calling her a tranny). I found myself with the unfortunate dilemma of "Do I report this matter to the police at the Academy, reveal to a police officer what had happened to me and reveal that I am transgender; or do I just sit in silence and hope the whole thing will just go away?".

I *did* report the matter to the Sergeant on duty at the Police Academy Security Office; and he was the most wonderful person. If I could remember his bloody name, I would shout it out loud here today, to thank him for treating me with so much dignity and respect. And you know what happened? Just after I finished giving my statement, the perpetrator came in, and the Sergeant went to confront him about the incident, and the guy gave him a bit of lip, so he arrested him and took him to the ground. I was shocked...but pleasantly surprised. So thank you for that, Sergeant. I don't know what happened after that, but all I know was that the Sergeant stuck up for me. Me, the

tranny! How cool was that.....and that was back in 1998!

With all that said, I am very grateful to the NSW Police Force for the support they have given me over the years. They have never flinched away from the challenges that my situation presented. In fact, it has been the opposite. In my opinion, it is an institution that has demonstrated maturity in promoting and embracing diversity and equal rights and opportunities within its work force.

The value the Force places on the contribution that people from diverse backgrounds can offer shows progressive leadership and the NSW Police Force's commitment to respecting, valuing and embracing diversity.

By promoting a positive and supportive environment and embracing and appreciating transgender culture, I am optimistic that such an approach will serve as a beacon to other institutions, and I firmly believe that such an approach will continue to benefit not only the transgender community but the general community as a whole.



Valerie with her father on the day Valerie graduated from the Police Academy

The Transgender Day of Remembrance means a lot to me, as I'm sure it does to many of us here today. It is also a day of respect and reflection where we acknowledge and pay homage to those people whose pioneering and

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courageous spirit contributed to the betterment of transgender people. Working tirelessly and without complaint, they have paved the way to the rights and freedoms that many of our transgender brothers and sisters enjoy today.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those people who still fight the fight today, to reach the heights of equality with our gender counterparts: people such as **norrie mAy welby**, on the Gender Centre Board for several years and a trail-blazer in obtaining recognition for those of non-specified gender.

Then there are my esteemed NSW Police Force colleagues, Supt. **Donna Adney**, Supt. **Anthony Crandell**, Supt. **Karen Webb**, Commissioner **Andrew Scipione**, and the fabulous and amazing Senior Programs Officer for Gender and Sexuality, **Jackie Braw**, and so many others, who recognise the importance of supporting and protecting the rights of vulnerable communities, including members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex communities.

I would like to acknowledge **Katherine Cummings**, and **Phinn Borg**, and the wonderful team at the Gender Centre, who continue to be a beacon of light to transgender people, far and wide.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and express my gratitude to those who are now in semi- or full retirement including:

Roberta Perkins, who was the prime mover in setting up the Gender Centre in 1983, with the financial help of the then Minister for Youth and Community Affairs, the late Honourable **Frank Walker** and **Elizabeth Riley**, who went from being a client of the Gender Centre to being its Manager, and who restructured the Centre by broadening the variety of services made available to the clientele.

And of course I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have passed on, including; **Kathy Noble**, a Queenslander (ex-Pom) who worked tirelessly for the transgender community and died earlier this year aged

eighty-one but still going strong for the general good; **Paula Hartigan**, a dear friend and golf buddy; and one of the earliest workers for the Gender Centre, who looked after Outreach for many years and whose experience and unfailing good humour have been lost by her death, also early this year; **Leslie Findlay**, a Board Member for the Gender Centre for many years, who died in 2014.

I can't finish without mentioning such fabulous entertainers and colourful personalities in our community as the gorgeous and sharp witted, Carlotta (Queen of the Cross), a legend of Les Girls and the inspiration for the movie *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, who still dazzles and sparkles her way through life.

And of course, my other mum, who is now shining up there in the heavens, Carmen Rupe,



Valerie joins in the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras revelry

an amazing artist who was larger than life, and a stunning entertainer who could sashay into anyone's heart and make you feel special and loved.

I think of all our brothers and sisters and non-transgender colleagues, and acknowledge the work and contribution and great sacrifice that they have made in order for people like me to be able to work in mainstream conservative organisations, such as the NSW Police Force.

I am acutely aware that it is their hard work and blood, sweat, and tears that has enabled me to walk my path. It is their collective tireless efforts, courage and endurance that have



More revelry!

enabled us here today, to enjoy the liberty and the fruits of their hard labour and great sacrifice.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

As is customary in my culture, I would like to end with a simple song. It is called Yellow

Bird. and it reminds me of two things in my life, the time when I would look at my mum with great admiration for both her physical and her innate beauty and it reminds me, too, of my transgender sisters and brothers, who, however beautiful they are, sometimes find that their beauty, independence and individuality are not recognised.....

This is for you....

Yellow Bird, high up in a banana tree.

Yellow Bird, you sit all along like me.

Did your lady friend, Leave the nest again

That is very sad. Makes me feels so bad.

You can fly away. In the sky away.

You're more lucky than me.



GC 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 9519 7599 (Wed, Thur or Friday) or just drop them in marked to my attention. Thanks!

Katherine Cummings

Be Part of the Action!

Can you write?

Would you like to write something for *Polare*?

We are looking for writing that expresses some of the viewpoints we seldom see, like the views of younger gender diverse people.

Email :

resources@gendercentre.org.au

or call 9519 7599

Postgraduate degrees at the UNSW Centre for Social Research in Health*

The Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH) is seeking passionate, engaged and motivated applicants for our MA by Research and PhD degrees who are interested in understanding and influencing change in the fields of health, sex, drugs and risk:

<http://csrh.arts.unsw.edu.au/education-training/postgraduate-research/>

Based in Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW Australia, a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8) key teaching and research universities in Australia, our research degrees provide the skills needed to undertake high quality research, contribute to academic and policy debates, and inform best practice.

We welcome applications for research into the social and cultural aspects of HIV, sexual health, sexual practices, viral hepatitis and drug use but also encourage proposals in related areas of education, health and wellbeing, and from a diversity of social and behavioural science perspectives.

Students form an integral part of our diverse community of talented supervisors and researchers, and develop close relationships with community organisations, health and education service providers and policy makers, to inform the quality of their research and strengthen the impact and relevance of their research findings.

To learn more about getting started, visit:

<http://csrh.arts.unsw.edu.au/education-training/postgraduate-research/getting-started/>

Note: Applications for APA scholarships (for domestic students) **close 17 October 2014** for first semester 2015 admissions. **A second round then opens for second semester.** UNSW International Research Candidate Scholarships are listed here:

<http://research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-research-scholarships>

(*Formerly the National Centre in HIV Social Research)

Dates for Special Interest and Support Groups 2016

Transtopia 14-19 yrs 5pm-7pm Tue 23/2 Tue 29/3 Tue 26/4 Tue 24/5 Tue 28/6 Tue 26/7 Tue 23/8 Tue 27/9 Tue 25/10 Tue 29/11	Young Women's Group 18-35 yrs 5.30pm-7.30pm Tue 9/2 Tue 1/3 Tue 12/4 Tue 10/5 Tue 14/6 Tue 12/7 Tue 9/8 Tue 13/9 Tue 11/10 Tue 8/11	FTM Connect 6.30pm-8.00pm Fri 5/2 Fri 4/3 Fri 1/4 Fri 6/5 Fri 3/6 Fri 1/7 Fri 5/8 Fri 2/9 Fri 7/10 Fri 4/11 Fri 2/12	Parent's Support Group - Sydney 6.30pm-8.30pm (doors open 6.00pm) Mon 8/2 Mon 14/3 Mon 11/4 Mon 9/5 Mon 6/6 Mon 11/7 Mon 8/8 Mon 12/9 Mon 10/10 Mon 14/11 Mon 8/12
Women's Group 1.30pm-3.30pm Fri 29/1 Fri 26/2 Fri 29/4 Fri 27/5 Fri 24/6 Fri 29/7 Fri 26/8 Fri 30/9 Fri 28/10 Fri 24/11	Over 55 Support Group 1.30pm-3.30pm Thu 11/2 Thu 10/3 Thu 14/4 Thu 12/5 Thu 9/6 Thu 14/7 Thu 11/8 Thu 8/9 Thu 13/10 Thu 10/11 Thu 8/12	Queer Agenda Group 5.30pm-7.30pm Mon 1/2 Mon 7/3 Mon 4/4 Mon 2/5 Mon 6/6 Mon 4/7 Mon 1/8 Mon 5/9 Tue 4/10 (public holiday Mon) Mon 7/11 Mon 5/12	

New groups for parents of transgender children are being formed in Wollongong and Dubbo. Meeting dates have not yet been set. For information please check the website, www.gendercentre.org.au or call the Centre on 9519 7599 or, from outside metropolitan Sydney, on 1800 069 115.

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

QUEENSLAND GENDER CENTRE

The Queensland Gender Centre is run 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*

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 2015 have not been set but sessions will be held monthly. To make an appointment please contact a Gender Centre Staff member on 9569 2366 or email reception@gendercentre.org.au. Bookings are essential.

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

FREE!
HOME TUTORING IN READING AND WRITING FOR ADULTS (nights preferred)
Call Margot 9335 2536 or Mim 9335 2350 @ Petersham TAFE

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.

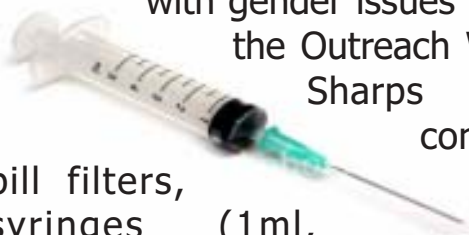
Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. A clinical psychologist will co-facilitate these meetings.

A light supper will be available.

Contact Liz on 9569 2366

The Gender Centre is a Needle Exchange and operates Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

A confidential free service for people with gender issues (ask for the Outreach Worker).



Sharps containers,

pill filters, syringes (1ml, 2.5ml, 5ml), needles (21g, 23g, 25g, 26g), condoms, spoons, water, fit packs, swabs, dams.

Or phone the Alcohol and Drug Information 24 hr advice, information and referral service, Sydney (02) 9331 2111 Country 009 42 2599

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Subsidised Rates apply for anyone undergoing the Gender Reassignment

Change of Mailing Details?

- Different name?
- Different address?
- Different gender?
- Don't want *Polare* in the future?

My **OLD** details:

My **NEW** details:

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

Community Visitors Scheme Funded

ACON is pleased to announce that it has been successful in receiving funding for the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) from the Federal Department of Social Services.

The ACON Community Visitors Scheme will match volunteers to older people from sexuality and gender diverse backgrounds who are experiencing social isolation. Recipients of this new ACON service will need to be in receipt of a Commonwealth-subsidised Home Care Package and will be visited in their own homes by our CVS Volunteer at no charge to them or to the Home Care Package providers.

What is the CVS? The aim of the ACON CVS is to foster the development of companionship and friendship for individual recipients, by linking them with regular volunteer visitors. Additionally, the development of the friendship assists in linking the recipient with her or his local community. ACON CVS Volunteers will be sensitive to the particular needs of older LGBTI people.

During 2014/15, the ACON CVS service will be rolled out throughout much of metropolitan Sydney and will also extend to parts of the Nepean, Illawarra, Central Coast and Hunter regions.

More info: If you know of someone who could benefit from establishing friendships or would like to discuss the possibility of becoming an ACON CVS Volunteer with the service, please call:

Adrian Eisler

Tel: (02) 9206 2028

Email: communityvisitor@acon.org.au

stand tall
against
violence



TAVP

Transgender Anti-Violence
Project



Have you experienced an incident where you felt discriminated against, harassed, victimised or unsafe because of gender identity?

You are not alone! And it is NOT your fault.

If you report transphobic incidents to us, we can support you and try to stop it happening to someone else.

If it is an emergency: call the police on 000. Otherwise, **contact the TAVP: ph: (02) 9519 7599, email: tavp@gendercentre.org.au online: www.tavp.org.au**

or the **Gender Centre on ph: (02) 9519 7599, email: reception@gendercentre.org.au**

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

STOP DISCRIMINATION

Contact the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW

Get free confidential advice

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

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

Email adbcontact@agd.nsw.gov.au

Make a complaint

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

Email complaintsadb@agd.nsw.gov.au

I've avoided commenting on Caitlyn Jenner in a public way thus far, in part because I'm a consultant on her series *I AM CAIT*, not to mention being an occasional member of the cast. More importantly, though, I see Caitlyn, like lots of trans-people in early transition, as a work in progress. What most trans people need, especially in the early days, is time to figure out how they want to live in the world. Caitlyn Jenner deserves the benefit of the doubt no less than anyone else. That said, I suppose there are a few things I would like to share. So here are a few thoughts. They represent my own feelings, not that of the show's producers; not that of GLAAD or Kinsey or any of the other institutions I'm involved with.

I, too, was sceptical about the prospect of her show at first, and her clear plan for world media domination. The transgender community has had many people in it who have arrived on the scene determined to be famous, and it's almost always been a mess, not least because so many of us don't know the full community before we start talking into microphones.

Many of us barely know how to talk about ourselves, let alone others. I can tell you that there are things I said in 2003, when I first published my memoir, "She's Not There," that I wish I had phrased differently. It takes a long time to understand the many, many ways of being trans—other than our own—and to recognize that other people's take on being trans is as valid as our own. If you find yourself telling someone, "You're doing it wrong," you're probably doing it wrong.

She was crying, so I said, "Everybody on Jenner." And soon enough, everybody was.

So from the beginning, I feared the worst. But in short order, to my surprise, Caitlyn Jenner won me over. There are a lot of things I can say about her, but I can say this above all: she is a good soul, with an earnest, heartfelt desire to help the world. She is doing this by using her own celebrity to shine a light on the experiences of transgender people, including plenty of people whose stories are very different from her own. So far in her show (as of mid-August), we've seen her visit the parents of a

young trans boy who committed suicide; spent some time at HRC talking to a trans man and woman about that organization's work; spent a couple of days hanging out with a diverse gang of trans women (including me) that includes a Latina woman, several women of color, other women who've done sex work; a woman who was stabbed in an all-too-typical case of violence for our community, and others as well.

She will visit other parts of our community in the future, I am sure.

To those who suggest that she is too privileged, or too white, or too wealthy, to be typical, I say, you are right. She has lived in a world that I can barely comprehend. But here's the bargain: her family's fame brings visibility to the lives of all our people, and CJ is dedicated to using that visibility for good. And by "fame,"

I mean that, for instance, her daughter Kim has the largest number of Twitter followers in the world, period. You can argue all you like about whether this fame is deserved, or just plain weird, or what. But CJ's transition was going to be world news, whether we like it or not. The Kardashian show is watched by people in 125 countries in twenty-four different languages. It's ridiculous. And onto this stage walks Caitlyn Jenner, whom I believe truly wants to use that fame to help educate people. I think it's done immeasurable good so far. It's amazing.

Meanwhile: there are more important issues facing transgender men and women in the world than what happens on Caitlyn Jenner's docu-series. We have had at least twelve or thirteen murders this year of trans women, almost all of them trans women of color and/or Latinas. It's important to keep focus, and remember that the fight for trans equality takes place on many fronts: legal, social, and



Jenny Boylan

The Big Dress Theory

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political. I know that the Jenner program has brought trans issues a visibility and a publicity they have never had before. But our success as a community will be measured by lives saved, and jobs created, and not by ratings. The same might be said of the other shows that have aired over the last few years, including *I Am Jazz*, and *Becoming Us*, and *Orange is the New Black* and *Transparent*, and all the other many shows that have highlighted transgender experience in many different ways. I am grateful for all these shows. But I am even more grateful if one person decides not to take his or her life; if one more law is passed guaranteeing freedom from violence, or homelessness, or any of the other indignities reserved for our people.

- There's been some criticism of CJ for being too feminine, that she defines her womanhood in terms of hair and makeup, and look, let's face it: she is a little glamorpuss. There was a particularly idiotic column in the New York

Times early this summer by a TERFy writer who felt that Caitlyn Jenner isn't "really" a woman because she's too girly, because she hasn't suffered enough, because she doesn't have a woman's history, and so on. To this I can only say, poppycock. The world is full of women a thousand times girlier than Caitlyn Jenner whose womanhood no one doubts; full of women like, for instance, my aunt Gertrude who never got a period and who never had a baby; full of women whose experience exists along a broad, broad spectrum. The world contains Janet Reno and Dolly Parton; Mother Teresa and Lady Gaga, and newborn baby girls who have been "women" less than a couple of hours. Surely, if there is room in this world for all these different ways of being female, there is room enough for Caitlyn; room enough for you, and room enough for me.

Anyway, anyone who feels that somehow Caitlyn Jenner—or any transgender person—doesn't fit into their special "theory" of the world might want to spend a little less time working on their special theory and instead ask, How can I ease other people's suffering? How can I make the world a little more of a loving place? If your special theory of gender—or anything for that matter—doesn't reduce suffering or create a world more full of love, it might be worth asking whether what you really need is a new theory.



A group of trans people at HRC in San Francisco. I love how Cait, front row left, is reaching out for me (second from right.)

And if you're still all angry about the fact that CJ likes to spend the morning wearing hot rollers, you also ought to also note that so far, in her show, we've seen her riding a motocross dirt bike, pumping her own gas, and flying a radio-controlled helicopter. Surely THAT'S feminine enough for you?

- I think there is a fair amount of exhaustion in the trans community about the attention paid to Caitlyn, and quite

properly so: many of the things Cait is saying are things that the rest of us have been saying for decades now, and it is more than a little weird that it is only when a member of the Kardashian family says them that mainstream media pays any attention. But I also suspect that that trans community is really not the target audience for *I AM CAIT*. I think is a cis audience, especially of people who have never given our humanity a second thought, that is the primary audience. And I can tell you, based on what I have seen, that hearts are opening.

I do suspect that sometimes our community has more than a little amount of what the Irish call "begrudgement," regarding trans people who wind up in the media spotlight.

Many of us feel like, well god dammit, WE are the ones who deserve to have our own show;

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WE are the ones whose stories ought to be told; WE are the ones who ought to have purty pictures of ourselves taken by Annie Leibowitz. And of course, we are right. We do deserve all these things, and many of us might well be more articulate than Cait has been able to be so far— although I think she deserves a tremendous amount of credit for her speech at the ESPYs, which was generous, thoughtful, and humble.

Caitlyn Jenner has been able to reach people the rest of us might not have been able to reach.

She is not the perfect “spokesperson,” assuming that such a person could ever exist— given the contentiousness of our community, and its vast diversity. I am not sure she wants to be a “spokesperson” at all. What she wants is to try to do good in the world, and I think she is succeeding. In the meantime, all the rest of us continue to do our own work, in whatever way we can. There is a lot to do.

This dress is big enough for all of us.

□□□

GLLO (Gay and Lesbian Liason) Has Been Running For Twenty-Five Years! by Viola Leyshon

In October 2015 I attended the 25th anniversary of the Australian Polices GLLO program, which stands for Gay and Lesbian Liason Officer (I can’t help wishing there was a T for Transgender in there) but nevertheless it’s better than nothing!

The idea behind the title is that each police command assigns a culturally competent officer to deal with crime related to the LGBTIQ community.

The officer nominated to be the GLLO undergoes specific training in the hope that she or he will take on this duty as well as his or her other duties, in order to strengthen the police force’s ties with the LGBTIQ community.

As a case worker for the Gender Centre and a trans woman myself I was intrigued to see what the police were doing to make me and the rest of the LGBTIQ individuals feel safer with our acquired knowledge of police interactions with our various communities.

The conference was held over two days at the Police Academy. On the first day we heard from several speakers such as Tim Wilson (Australian Human Rights Commissioner) and there were three panels with leading academics and researchers from NSW, Queensland, WA and Victoria, including Liz Ceissman who is the Senior Case Worker at the Gender Centre.

Liz spoke on defining gender identity and how gender identity and sexual orientation are not related.... contrary to the belief of most of society.

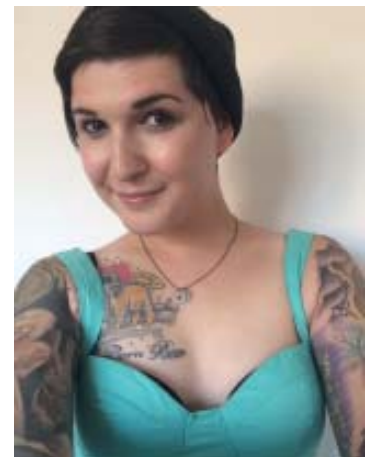
On the second day it was my turn to stand on the big stage and after dodging some minor nerves I was

at home on the stage couch alongside a number of gender and sexuality variant folks.

We were asked various questions ranging from “What does pansexuality mean?” to “how can a police officer best approach a gender variant person with regard to pronouns”, the general consensus in the latter case being “if you dont know, ask!”.

All in all I feel the conference proved to me that the police are doing their best to adapt to the higher visibility of transgender people and to develop policies for the treatment of gender variations that have, in the past, been brushed under the carpet ... or worse!

□□□



Viola Leyshon

Am I Trans Enough? by Cathy Hart Issue One Hundred and Six

I was one of the early starters.

I can recall, as clear as yesterday, being aged about four and happily wandering around my house wearing a dress.

It just felt right.

Other milestones followed and have stayed etched into my psyche all of my life. Vivid memories of instances of dressing in female clothes when I was aged around seven, ten and twelve until, aged about fourteen, I tried (and loved) make-up and wearing a wig that had been discarded by someone in the family.

More markers of my T journey came and went during my late teens and early twenties, and I continued my irregular progression through the various stages of dressing that we all go through until, one day, I just sort of came to the realisation that “partial dressing” was no longer enough; it had to be the complete “package”. Full set of clothes, full make-up, full accessories—oh..., and with this came the burning, unrelenting desire to get out and about; see the world and be seen by the world!

Meeting others was a distant dream though (being a child of the generation before instant communications and just about everything else instant you can wish for was in vogue)—partly as I wasn't sure there *was* anyone else like me out there. In those days there simply wasn't anyone to ask, talk to; there were no on-line or other resources to refer to.

So, when I do reflect on my journey, consider how I have changed over the years in both my mental and physical appearance, in fact, the only consistency is that I've known *all my life* is that I am different but, like many others of the “pre-internet generation”, until I became older, I didn't truly understand and appreciate why. While it is easy to look back and realise that I have been transgendered ever since I first had memories, as I said, like for so many of us, there was no-one to advise me, to help me, to confide in during those worrying, confusing early years. Things out of the ordinary were simply not talked about.

And by the time I came to realise what I really am, in many ways it was too late: in line with almost everyone else of my era, I had dated,

become engaged, and married. Well, everyone else was doing it, why shouldn't I? I can, however, with some pride, say that I was expertly fooling everyone but myself.

In addition to the above-mentioned family and work situation the social environment and pecuniary needs of having a young family meant that there was no way to live as I really wanted. I know some others in a similar situation to mine do transition and live their lives successfully but I am fundamentally cautious and conservative at the best of times.

Often I used to close my eyes and bury my face in my hands for minutes on end to see if the enforced darkness would help me out of my dilemma, help get me an answer..., any answer.

Then there was the worrying about the possible reactions and pressures from friends, family, close and distant in the vent I did reveal my true identity; worrying about aged parents from a generation who definitely wouldn't understand, probably couldn't accept. Over the years two children came along and the joys and challenges of family life made time flash by; the months roll into years and the years into decades.

Add the fact that I was actively pursuing a professional career in a male dominated environment; becoming very socially adept at pretending to be a “real man” meaning that, sadly, Cathy took a back seat. By no means forgotten and certainly not neglected, but with a “bit-part” in my life, cameo appearances in the theatre of my dreams.

But life went on.

Until now, (fast forward to the present) and, at last..., finally..., the “golden years of opportunity” have stealthily crept up upon me, and I find myself living alone in a city where being T is not an issue with children grown up and moved away (mature enough to understand even if not accept), pretty well financially



Cathy Hart

Issue One Hundred and Six

solvent (although still harbouring some small fear, rightly or wrongly, that transition equates to the inability to earn) with concerns about my mortality occasionally flickering through my head (enjoy your life as you want while you can, because you never know...!)

Yes..., yes, I do live fifty per cent of my time as a female (the tiny amount of male clothes I have is laughable).

Yes..., yes, I can and do go anywhere, anytime I want as “me” (not him!) without detection (and for this I am sincerely grateful).

Yes..., yes, I have had all the usual, minor cosmetic treatments many T people have but I am not going to tell you about them. ***In short, my chance is here; the opportunity nigh; the stars are aligned.***

So, just what is stopping me from moving forward? What is preventing me from becoming “me” permanently, forever?

I am T, no doubt about that. Always have been and always will be.

I am also ready to live my remaining years presenting mainly as a female. Got the wardrobe, that’s for sure.

Yet, something, irritatingly, holds me back. Just as I seem to have made ***that*** decision, something nagging

appears deep in the recesses of my mind. What? Why? Why again? I’ve thought about and over-thought this for some years. Still do.

Do I have a conclusion? Well, maybe..., sort of., I mean possibly.

Well, in the great wide spectrum that is the T subset of overall society, let’s, for argument’s sake, say there is a scale of 1-100. It could be 1-10, it doesn’t really matter.

The number 1 might be a fetish crossdresser, whilst 100 might be a fully transitioned male-female..., all the “works” done.

If I had to place myself on this scale, all things considered, where would I be? (go on, firstly ask yourself: where would *you* be?). Honestly..., depending on the day you ask me, I can see myself in the 85-95 range.

Enough of a “score” to want to transition, but not quite enough to go forward with it. Enough to know that I should, but not quite enough to be ***absolutely, unequivocally*** sure.

To me, therefore, it seems to be a ***question of degrees*** or, put another way, my personal million dollar question is: “Am I Trans enough?”

Does anyone else out there have this dilemma?

□□□



Trans enough?

TRANSACTIVIST MARGOT FINK VICTORIAN FINALIST FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR



Margot Fink Young Australian of the Year nomination for his work with the poor and

homeless. Margot, who is known for her work on behalf of the gender diverse, particularly at the teenage and high school level, has been unsuccessful in her bid, as Robert Gillies has taken out the Victorian

Young Australian of the Year nomination for his work with the poor and homeless. Margot, part of the four per cent of Australians who are transgender or gender diverse, has become an outstanding role model for young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. A leading light in the organisation minus18youth she has worked on *OMG I’m Trans!* and *Pronouns* in her efforts to make a better world for the gender diverse. □□□

November 20 and What We Did On TDOR

Issue One Hundred and Six

by George Fayad

November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).

We are fortunate that in Australia we do not have many local deaths to remember on this day of mourning, but the violence committed against those who identify as transgender, gender diverse or gender neutral is ongoing and destructive.

This year, as in past years, the intention was to bring to people's attention the violence and abuse committed toward the community and is under-reported or not addressed at all.

Guest speakers were asked to empower reporting and emphasise the message that violence is not unacceptable.

The keynote speaker was Valerie Wagstaffe, whose speech appears in this issue, and whose image graces our cover. Her story is an inspiration to the transgender community and she is a remarkable role model for transgender people wishing to make a significant contribution to society at large as well as our own smaller society.

Laura Sweeny from the Australian Human Rights Commission spoke about discrimination the community faces, including the lack of legal rights and recognition that the transgender community deserves.

Moo Baulch from Domestic Violence Australia also spoke of the problems of under reporting in the community and Chantelle Martin, from the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) added insights based on her experience. Superintendent Tony Crandell contributed a

solid policy statement on the determination of the New South Wales Police Force to treat transgender and gender diverse people with understanding, fairness and an outgoing program of support, built around the concept of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLOs) but going further and including training for all police officers.

The event was a success, and many people from diverse backgrounds mingled after the formal talks, to exchange views and to socialise with their peers. Several members of the community expressed the view that TDOR

had helped them in some way and one person said that, despite having had a rough day, and despite the heartbreaking undertone of TDOR, it had cheered her up knowing there was support for herself and others like her.

Superintendent Crandell's speech that struck a chord with most of those present. Several people said that they were surprised to hear a man of such high rank and standing in the police force showing support for the community.

Another person said that she would never have imagined the police would be open to helping her when she was being abused, and that knowing there was support would have made a difference to her life.

The speakers, the donations and the funds raised were all part of the event's success but it was the testimonies of those who attended telling us of their changes of attitude and their realisation that society itself is changing for the better that created sparks of optimism and hope for their lives. □□□



Eloise Brooks MCs the show



Valerie Wagstaff, Chantelle Martin (SWOP) and Pip Ditzell (City of Sydney Council) enjoy refreshments after the TDOR formalities

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.**

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

**Except in the case of serious
emergencies, please make an
appointment before coming to
the Gender Centre. We are
glad to help you if we can, but
if someone else has booked
the time you may miss out.
Phone 9519 7599**

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 46, Newtown,
NSW, 2042

or at:

info@oii.org.au

**or visit our website at
www.oii.org.au**

**Ask
UnitingCare
about how
we can help
LGBTI people
live at home
for longer**

UnitingCare Ageing have a number of Home Care Packages available specifically for the benefit of the LGBTI Community.

If you are over 65 years of age, identify as LGBT and have low to high care needs, then one of these government subsidised packages could provide you with cost effective care in your own home that will help you to live independently.

For information or assistance call **1800 486 484** or visit us at **unitingcareageing.org.au**

ABN 78 722 536 923



My Destiny

A few years ago I had pain all over my body. I couldn't even walk properly. I had all kinds of medicine but they made no difference and I was utterly depressed. The doctor couldn't find any reason despite many checkups.

It was so sad.

My only wish was to get back a healthy life. Nothing else mattered.

One day I thought I should read a book or paint a picture to forget this pain.

I started with a white sketch book. I stared at it for long time not knowing what I would draw. I was excited. Blue ocean or green mountain .. anything just grab the brush and keep painting.

When finished I had goose bumps on my skin and a memory of a time in 2006 when I went to a temple in Lakemba. The monk was Korean. The night before I had seen the same temple and monk in a dream and the monk told me I would paint about Buddhism or I could become a monk myself. I didn't take any notice of what he said and ignored the whole experience.

Now I looked at the painting I had made and it was Buddha and a temple on a mountain.

I tried to draw the ocean to make it look closer to the temple and I realised that since painting my picture I felt healthier and clearer in my head.

That was my big turning point and I decided to accept the urge to paint. I also knew now that I needed to transition from being male to being my real female inner self.

Like water or wind I would go with the flow.

Painting became my profession and now I draw for those who need help in their life and I live the life I was always meant to live.

Two years ago I met my partner Michael Abdul Maldari, who came from Iran by boat and was detained for two years on Christmas Island.

He told me how he came to this country and how his family had treated him ever since he was made to work as a child labourer.

Nobody in my family will talk to me since my transition.

We know pain and loneliness.

Now Michael is my only family and I know if he goes back to his country he might be killed.

Even if I sponsor him the situation is uncertain because overstayed his visa.

I can't imagine living in Iran as a transgender. It would be very dangerous and hard.

I don't want to lose my family again. Michael is my family.

Today I pray about our family .

I have lost so much, everything but my love.

I hope God will help me to keep Michael with me.

Mel

World Aids Day 2015 in Pokhara, Nepal

Issue One Hundred and Six

by Edwina Keelan

Attending this event was truly an honour as I was the only foreigner there to support the Blue Diamond Society (BDS) in Pokhara, Nepal in their observance of World Aids Day.

The BDS is GLBTI organisation that advocates for Human Rights and HIV prevention. They



do not receive any government funding for the transgender segment of their clientele (or 'third gender' as they are known in Nepal).

In fact BDS has not had any funding from the government of Nepal for over six months.

Most of the transgender clients of BDS are sexworkers and, according to my sources, many of their clients refuse to wear a condom, so that the incidence of HIV is relatively high.

How do they survive with no health centre? Transgender people in Nepal are usually kicked out of their homes and often they have only BDS for support.

This year's AIDS Day event featured a fashion show starring transgender women.

Their outfits and shoes were their own but they also created multi-use accessories from items resembling balloons or bubbles



Edwina joins the Misses Condom

knotted into strings (well, let's face it, they were condoms) and I helped blow them up backstage.

Miss Condom

The transgender models were generically known as Miss Condom and received a lot of woohos and yahoos from the crowd which consisted of, school-children, friends and family as well as supporters of BDS. I was privileged to be in the front row seat which made everything more enjoyable.



Traditional Nepali Dancers

Also featured were traditional Nepali dancers who were also transgender. The dancing was full of life, movement and colour.

Many of the costumes were assymmetrically draped or constructed across the body in spectacular reds greens and white embroidery in linens- cottons and velvets.

Fupu from BDS Pokhara

I must make a special mention of Fupu from BDS for introducing me to the third genders of Nepal.

If you would like to become a donor to BDS, contact Fupu by email at: Naulobihani2006@gmail



Fupu



Ooops...! Adventures & Minor Mishaps of a T-girl About Town by Kathy Hamilton

Issue One Hundred and Six

reviewed by Katherine Cummings

Kathy Hamilton who also writes under other names, is a prolific writer of “articles, columns, op-eds, features and stories for magazines, websites and e-zines” and also works as an editor for a number of publications. Her business interests are mainly centred in Asia and she seems to be at home anywhere she decides to have an adventure as her femme-self, whether it be China, Thailand or anywhere else she chooses to drop her travel bag.

Kathy, herself, seems to be unsure of how far along the road to transition she is, and has used this theme in an article in the NSW Seahorse magazine, an article we obtained permission to reproduce in this issue.

Her book, *Ooops...!*, however, deals more lightly with the whole question of cross-dressing and emphasises the opportunistic advantages of being alone in a foreign city, whether for business, conference or other reasons (I know a lot of us will have a *frisson* of recognition) and the pleasure of having disposed of one’s duties and having the chance to live, however briefly, in a gender role which is, in her case, not yet a full-time, commitment. As the name suggests, these adventures are the ones where disaster threatens to strike, and all one’s secrets appear about to be laid bare, bringing the life we have known crashing down in a series of unwanted revelations.

In Kathy’s case she is *almost* sprung a number of times, finding herself at a restaurant table adjacent to her boss, or an important customer, or discovering at the last moment that her partner is unexpectedly returning home from a business trip and is only forty minutes away from arriving.

These moments, too, will bring further *frissons* as we are reminded of close calls and crises brought about by our obsessive masquerading in the days when we could only be “part-time”.

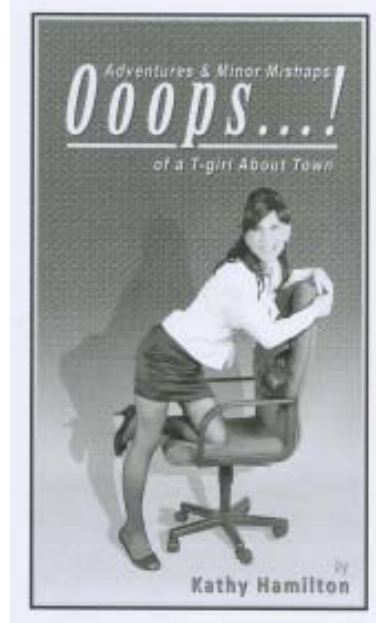
There are occasions in Kathy’s book when guests arrive after a hasty tidy-up only to have Kathy realise that clues to her second life are still in plain sight and need to be removed or concealed in a lightning flash of improvisation.

On one occasion an astute (or simply experienced) Customs officer makes a remark that reveals that he is well aware why a businessman might be carrying, not only several cases of female clothing and accessories, but also (something of a giveaway) two small bags of rice (in my day it was birdseed, but I guess the effect is the same).

One characteristic that emerges strongly is Kathy’s commitment to her female self. Her love of feminine clothing, makeup and accessories positively glows through every anecdote and the fact that she is comfortable enough in her *Kathy persona* to

have made friends with staff in her apartment building and elsewhere demonstrates her significant progress along that difficult road we follow when first we decide that there is a person inside who needs to have her time in the sun from time to time.

I really have only one criticism of Kathy’s book. I want to know more. Each chapter ends with the title sign-off “Ooops!” as Kathy reaches a moment where disaster might strike in the next moment, or has just been avoided, but there must have been more to some of these adventures. As I said to Kathy in a recent email, at least the cliff-hangers that ended each episode of the Saturday matinee serial were resolved, often in a facile and unbelievable way, but they **were** resolved. I think Kathy needs a companion volume to satisfy the nagging curiosity of her readers who want to know “What happened next?”. If, however, you are happy to go on wondering, and just want to enjoy the free spirit and happy adventures of a dedicated cross-dresser, then this book will be sure to amuse and entertain you.



Ooops! Adventures and Minor Mishaps of a T-Girl About Town
by Kathy Hamilton 64pp A4, US\$5.89 from Amazon (e-book).



I have never found it easy to say goodbye. I know I am not alone in that experience – some of us prefer to slip away unnoticed from others rather than announce our imminent departure. There can be many reasons for this – from

not wanting to attract attention because it makes us uncomfortable to imagining our departure does not warrant acknowledgment.

Some goodbyes, however, are too important to allow the opportunity to express ourselves pass by. Some experiences have had such a wonderful and important impact upon us that they simply must be acknowledged. My time here as Counsellor at the Gender Centre is one of these.

As my tenure comes to an end and I venture into private practice, I reflect on my time here and the countless amazing, brave and interesting people I have had the privilege of supporting. I am immensely grateful to clients of the service and to the wider transgender community who have supported me in my journey as the Counsellor at the GC. When I started, I was understandably nervous about how the community would take to a new heterosexual cisgender white male Counsellor. Those anxieties were quickly dispelled as I received nothing but positive regard and support. I feel that the transgender community and the GC staff are setting examples of the kind of change they want to see in the world.

Quite simply, I felt accepted.

I also find myself reflecting on the next frontier for transgender people in Australia. At a time when gender diversity is very much in the media and the public sphere, there are still areas where the community is not being supported.

What do I think you deserve? You deserve to visit professionals of any kind who understand what it means to be transgender so that you do not have to keep explaining yourself. You deserve to visit professionals and not be made

to feel “less than” because you do not fit mainstream ideals of beauty, or because your identity does not fit neatly within the binary. Sadly, there are still medical professionals who fail these simple requirements.

You deserve to visit mental health professionals and not be told your dysphoria is a “phase” or have it ignored altogether because they lack the professional skills and understanding to support you.

You deserve to have what are often life-saving and always life-changing surgeries free of charge by a medical system which continues to lack understanding of how important these procedures are.

You deserve a Government who will make it easier for you to change your name, passport and legal identity and apply these policies consistently.

You deserve to be loved, by everyone in your life, for who you really are.

Quite simply, you deserve much more than our society is currently providing. I ask you not to forget there are many people out there who will stand beside you as we move towards a better educated and more understanding world for transgender people.

To all my past and current clients, I wish to express my gratitude for how you took the chance to trust me. Many people believe that counselling involves supporting a client to make the changes they want in life, but what you don't often hear is that in the process, the counsellor is often deeply impacted through this contact and in turn, something within him or her changes too. Whether it was a willingness to be vulnerable in my presence, taking the leap to discuss something you had never discussed before or accepting honest but hard-to-hear feedback – each and every one of you has had a wonderful impact on who I am, for which I am grateful.

I will continue to be a trans-ally supporting the needs of the community and, while I may be leaving the GC for private practice, I won't be hard to find if needed. You all were, and will continue to be, my teachers.

Always,

Anthony

A.C.T.

A GENDER AGENDA

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
Email: support@genderrights.org.au
Website: www.genderrights.org.au

AIDS ACTION COUNCIL OF ACT

The AIDS Action Council of the ACT provides information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support services for people living with HIV/AIDS

Westlund House, Acton, ACT 2601
GPO Box 229, Canberra, ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6257 2855
Fax: (02) 6257 4838
info@aidsaction.org.au

SWOP ACT (SEX WORKER OUTREACH PROJECT)

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

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

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW GENDER CENTRE

Counselling

Provides counselling to residents and clients living in the community. For more information or an appointment contact the Counsellor on 9519 7599 between 10am - 4.30pm.

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 - 4.30pm. Also available to clients confined at home, in hospital or gaol - by appointment only. For an appointment contact Outreach Worker - 9519 7599.

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. 9519 7599

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, including a quarterly magazine *Polare* and a regularly updated website at: www.gendercentre.org.au . For more information contact the Information Worker Wed-Fri 9519 7599

Drug and alcohol service

Provides education, support and referral to a broad range of services - By appointment only. For an appointment contact the Outreach Worker 9519 7599

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 95197599.

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, 41-43 Parramatta Rd, Annandale 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), Twenty 10, 10.00am-5.00pm Mon-Fri.

Admin enquiries (02) 8594 9550
Email: info@twenty10.org.au
Website: www.twenty10.org.au

ACON HEALTH LTD

Information and education about HIV/AIDS, caring, support for 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
ty: (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

ACON-NORTHERN RIVERS

27 Uralba Street
Lismore NSW 2480
PO Box 6063
South Lismore NSW 2480
Tel: (02) 6622 1555

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

Contact, support and information for all men (identified *female* at birth), their families, partners, and service providers. Contact FTMAustralia for more information:

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

GAY AND LESBIAN COUNSELLING SERVICE OF NSW (GLCS)

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

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

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

HARM MINIMISATION PROGRAM

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

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

INNER CITY LEGAL CENTRE

Available to discuss any legal matter that concerns you.
Ph: (02) 9332 1966

INTERSECTION

Coalition group of lesbian, gay, transgender and other sexual minority groups and individuals working for access and equity within local community services and their agencies.

Christine Bird (02) 9525.3790

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 & methodone 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 CHURCH

MCC Sydney is linked with MCCchurches 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' 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

OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

The Open Door Community of Christ is a church for everyone! We meet every Sunday at 6.00pm. Based in Sydney's west, at Cranebrook, the Open Door has been serving the LGBTIQ community for the past fifteen years. The Western Sydney Transgendered Support Group and the Western Sydney Coming Out Group are sponsored by the Open Door. Bj's cafe is held on Wednesdays from 11.00am-1.00pm. The Youth Is Knocking youth group is held monthly with accredited facilitators.

Contact Pastor Sue Palmer
0411330212 or
pastorsue@thependoor.org.au
for further information, or check the web page

www.thependoor.org.au

PARRAMATTA SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

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

Level 1, 162 Marsden (cnr. eorge St)
Parramatta, 2150
Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Mon, Wed, Fri, 9.00am-4.00pm
Tue 9.00am-1.00pm
Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

PLWHA (PEOPLE LIV- ING WITH HIV/AIDS)

PO Box 831, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010

Ph: (02) 9361 6011
Fax: (02) 9360 3504
www.plwha.org.au
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

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

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
www.swop.org.au

SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

Provides an opportunity for bisexual and bisexual-friendly people to get together in comfortable, safe and friendly spaces. Pub social in Newtown on 3d Sunday of every month followed by a meal. All welcome

Tel: (02) 9565 4281 (info line)
sbn-admin@yahoo.com
<http://sbn.bi.org>

SYDNEY BISEXUAL PAGANS

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

PO Box 121, Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012

SYDNEY MEN'S NET- WORK

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

SYDNEY SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

Provides free, confidential health services, including 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@sasahs.nsw.gov.au

SYDNEY WEST HIV/HEP C PREVENTION SERVICE

Needle and syringe program
162 Marsden St, Parramatta,
NSW 2150

Ph: (02) 9843 3229
Fax: (02) 9893 7103

TOWN & COUNTRY CENTRE

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

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
www.rainbow.net.au/~ausbinet

AISS SUPPORT GROUP (AUSTRALIA)

Support group for Intersex people and their families. We have representatives in all Australian States.

PO Box 1089
Altona Meadows, VIC, 3028
Tel: (03) 9315 8809
aissg@iprimus.com.au
www.vicnet.net.au/~aissg

AUSTRALIAN WOMAN NETWORK

Australian WOMAN Network is primarily a lobby and health support group for people who experience the condition of transsexualism, their families, friends and supporters. There are email discussion lists for members as well as a bulletin board for both public and member-only access.

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

CHANGELING ASPECTS

Organisation for Transsexual people, their partners and families. For information, please write or call.

email:knoble@iinet.net.au
www.changelingaspects.com

FTMAustralia

Resources and health information for all men (identified *female* at birth), their partners, family and service providers. Contact FTM Australia for more information.

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

NATIONAL LGBTI HEALTH ALLIANCE

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

TRUE COLOURS DIVERSITY

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

Web: www.truecolours.org.au
Email: Mail@truecolours.org.au

International

AGENDER NEW ZEALAND

A caring national support organisation for Cross/Transgender people, their partners and families. For a detailed information pack, please contact:
Email: president@agender.org.nz
www.agender.org.nz

BEAUMONT SOCIETY

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

BEAUMONT TRUST

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

CROSS-TALK

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

FTM INTERNATIONAL

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

FTM NETWORK UK

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

GENDERBRIDGE Inc.

Support and Social Society for people with gender identity issues, their families, partners and professionals involved in care, treatment and counselling.
PO Box 68236, Newton, 1145, New Zealand
Phone: (64) (09) 0800 TGHELP (0800.84.4357) (24 hrs)
www.genderbridge.org
info@genderbridge.org

GENDER TRUST (THE)

A help group for those who consider themselves transsexual, gender dysphoric or transgendered. Provides trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists and there is a referral procedure to a choice of other therapists.

The Gender Trust
PO Box 3192, Brighton
BN1 3WR, ENGLAND
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/gentrust/home.html>
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 and gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

PO Box 1066
Nedlands, WA, 6909, Australia
Mobile ph: 0427 853 083
<http://www.ece1.uwa.edu.au/gse/staffweb/fhaynes>
[IFAS_Homepage.html](http://www.IFAS.org.au)
www.IFAS.org.au

IFGE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

Educational and service organisation designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by the Community. Publisher of materials relevant to the TV/TS theme. Produces TV/TS journal - *Tapestry*.

PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254-0229 U.S.A.
<http://www.ifge.org/>
info@ifge.org

IKHLAS

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

ITANZ INTERSEX TRUST

AOTEAROA OF NEW ZEALAND

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

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF AUCKLAND - NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 68 509,
Newton, Auckland,
New Zealand

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF CHRISTCHURCH-NEW ZEALAND

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

PROSTITUTES COLLECTIVE OF WELLINGTON - NEW ZEALAND

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

Every effort has been made to include accurate and up-to-date information in this directory. To amend your listing fax (02) 9569 1176 or email the Editor on resources@gendercentre.org.au

Reading into Life

Free training for mental health workers in the Inner West

Do you work in the mental health sector or are you involved in community programs focused on wellbeing and inclusion?

Come and join us at Shared Reading NSW to explore an exciting new way to engage with your clients & community

Learn how to harness the power of great stories to improve people's well-being

We will be running training sessions in February, March & April 2016. Places are limited, so please contact us to ensure you are part of this dynamic opportunity!

Develop new skills in engagement and capacity building in your organisation

Shared Reading NSW offers an innovative, inclusive and engaging program that improves the lives of people living with mental health issues.

Use literature to inspire and connect with people with our practical training sessions

Share in the positive effects reading has on everyone



**PARTNERS
IN RECOVERY**
INNER WEST SYDNEY



Bringing people together.
Transforming communities,
one story at a time

To get involved contact us:
info@sharedreadingnsw.com

The Permanent Solution...

in Permanent Hair Removal

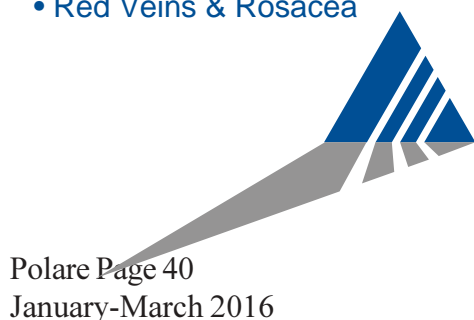
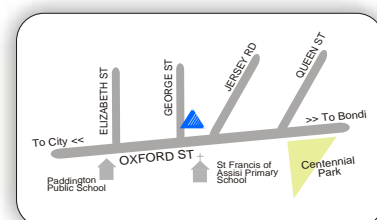
For those who are embarking on the transition from male to female, the permanent removal of hair is vital. However, with so many clinics and procedures to choose from, it's crucial that your chosen solution is reliable, safe and permanent.

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

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

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

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



advanced
ELECTROLYSIS CENTRE

Phone: (02) 9362 1992
9 George Street (just off Oxford St),
Paddington
aecsytdney.com.au