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Jessica's Transition Experience

Assaults and Beatings, I've Had My Share

by Jessica Elizabeth Blair

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Today I am writing this account of my life. I hope that it will help someone else escape their gender prison. To my belief I was born a girl in a male body. Although my female side soon came out.

I was happiest when in my sister's clothing and make-up. When my father caught me wearing a dress I received the first of many bitter floggings. At school playing girl's games brought more thrashings. I never like rough boy's games such as football, cricket, and soccer. Girl's games like skipping and hopscotch were more my style. My family fought my sexuality and was utterly and thoroughly hostile and not supportive in any way at all.

I kept my female side bottled up and well corked because my family would not try to understand. I hid my female side behind "men talk" of girls and sex. I went out with girls but pretended to myself, that I was female and they were male. Although it really freaked, some of them out when it came to sex (because I can't have normal sex). Although some of my friends who are call girls tease me at times, by offering sex, they're very supportive and understanding.

The bottle burst in my late teens with attempted auto-castration and suicide. They said I was *non compos mentis* for a week. I recovered and was committed to a psychiatric centre (a malicious hell hole). After a week or so of psychiatry including E.C.T. and other very nasty treatments, I was discharged.

After my discharge the cork went back in and to suppress any female feelings I threw myself into my work. Until in 1976, when I made another self-mutilation and suicide attempt that was unsuccessful. My brother found me and although the pills were pumped out I was sick for a week. So back to Parramatta for three more months of "nasties".

My family is not supportive and still fighting my sexuality. A few years ago I was banned from their homes and totally disowned. I decided to change sex and gender I now live as a woman but as I'm in the middle of a legal battle my name cannot be legally changed until after a settlement is reached. Then I'll be able to pay for the operations and treatment.

I tried several psychiatrists, most just wanted to give me anti-depressants or psychiatric treatments. I finally found a good psychiatrist who is very supportive and easy to talk to. With the help and support of the Gender Centre, and my endocrinologist, maybe there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Now I have my referral in hand and although the setbacks keep coming. The doctors constantly say we need just one more referral or letter. I'm still eagerly waiting for my trans gender operation - soon I hope.

I am still recognised by neighbours and acquaintances no matter how I dress and make myself up. Assaults and beatings, I've had my share. After being recognised by a neighbours wife in the ladies' toilets I received another bashing. I'm moving to a different area so I will not be recognised as I have lived in Mount Druitt for over thirty years and very well known around the local shops and bus services.

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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. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.