



**Changeling Aspects** In affiliation with Agender ( Aust. )

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Dear Jack,

After reading the draft report, the impression formed is that it is totally related to New Zealand born Transsexuals. The cover for those born off shore is minimal and offers no solutions to their problems.

I use the term Transsexual because the law of New Zealand requires that only Transsexual people can apply to amend their paperwork as they are required to have Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) and this does not apply to Transgender people.

In the report you use the term Transgender, but it appears that it is not used as the correct terminology! Transgender is an umbrella term that covers the full spectrum from Cross-Dresser, Transgender, Transsexual, Drag Queen, Drag King, Pan gendered, Androgyny and several areas in between. If you are using it in this manner, then you are clearly stating that all of these people, most of whom do not undergo SRS, are legally able to amend their paperwork, e.g. Birth Certificate and Passport and all other details to note their new sex/gender.

## **TRANSGENDER**

Is a political term to cover all of the disparate classes of people who fight for the common goal of ending all discrimination based on sex/gender variance. The term Transgender is politically useful, but is too vague a word to show much commonality between individual people's identities, life experiences or understanding of gender.

The word originally had a narrow definition as coined by Virginia Price in order to disassociate Trans people, such as herself, who lived full time as a member of her identified sex without undergoing Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS), from Transsexual, whom she reportedly disdained. (Brown, '20<sup>th</sup> Century TG History and Experience) (Leslie Feinberg, Transgender Warriors, Boston, Beam Press 1996)

Since the 1990s the word Transgenderism has been used primarily as an umbrella term to describe those who defy societal expectations and assumptions regarding femaleness and maleness; this includes people who are TS (those who live as members of the sex other than the one assigned at birth) and many other areas of those who are considered to deviate from societal norms of femaleness and

maleness.. Another point that is often overlooked in discussions about transgenderism is that many individuals who fall under the transgender umbrella choose not to identify with that term. For example many Intersex people reject the term because their condition is about physical sex (not gender). Similarly, many Transsexuals disavow the term because of its anti-transsexual roots or because they feel that the transgender movement tends to privilege those identities, actions and appearances that most visibly transgress gender norms. (Whipping Girl, Julia Serano, Seal Press 2007)

The laws in the New Zealand Government will only allow you to change your Birth Certificate, and Passport, after SRS, so therefore are directed at and should only use the term Transsexual, and not Transgender, which indicates that they have not chosen to undergo SRS, and do not qualify to be able to change the above documentation as the law is currently stated!

If the word Transgender is used as the political term as an umbrella cover for all of the disparate classes of people it covers, then if this is used when formulating the law to cover those who can amend their Birth Certificate, Passport, this would indicate anyone who is within those disparate classes, such as Cross-Dresser, Transgender, Transsexual, Drag Queen, Drag King, Intersex, AIS, PAIS, Genderqueer, etc, etc can change their documentation accordingly.

I do not believe that was the intention of those laws, as they all state that one must have undergone SRS in order to change these items of documentation.

I provide the above so that you may understand where I am coming from.

I find the exclusion of those born offshore as discriminatory in that they are not allowed to have a Recognition Certificate, but also because of this they are denied **full recognition that is currently given to those born in New Zealand e. g. amended Birth Certificate and Passport**. This denies them the right to travel for either business or pleasure!

I am at a total loss that at 5.60/66 under "getting Support" it is stated **"Health professionals said there is a lack of information available to assist their work with trans people: For counsellors and psychotherapists like myself it is very difficult to find definitive accessible information to assist our clients with their gender related issues (Psychotherapist)**.

There is readily available information both on the inter net and in book form if they wish to access it. Perhaps the following might help them.

<http://www.pfc.org.uk/node/1507>

<http://www.pfc.org.uk/node/1430>

<http://www.pfc.org.uk/node/1454>

<http://www.pfc.org.uk/node/1467>

<http://www.pfc.org.uk/files/medical/spectrum.pdf>

[http://www.ofc.org.uk/files/281091\\_YP\\_trans.pdf](http://www.ofc.org.uk/files/281091_YP_trans.pdf)

<http://www.pfc.org.uk/files/LondonGRS.pdf>

<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/12/1/whittle.html>

Also there are many areas in our web site, as listed above in the sections about Technical, Advocacy and For Parents of Gender Variant Young.

Having had dealings with the Royal Australian, New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP), it is more likely to be a lack of interest in Transsexual matters on the part of the professionals concerned e.g. GPs, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Endocrinologists and Counsellors willing to take an interest in our concerns. They have a tendency to place us in "The Too Hard Basket"

The latest WPATH (Benjamin) Standard of Care meeting held at the beginning of September 2007 had a paper delivered by Femke Olyslager and Lynne Conway "On the Calculation of the Prevalence of Transsexualism" I would direct you to their paper presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Symposium, Chicago, Illinois, September 5-8 2007-10-02 <http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/TS/Prevalence/Reports/Prevalence%20of%20Transsexualism.pdf>

**It makes very interesting reading as to the numbers for Transsexuals and Transgender people.**

We are finding that more people are coming forward and asking for information, but are having great difficulty in finding information due to the lack of where to find information and the general lack of knowledge and training within the professional ranks.

The largest growing area of concern is the young and their parents, as quality help and understanding is essential, but lacking! If dealt with by timely intervention in order to delay or off set the onset of puberty and all that goes with it, the outcome for these youngsters is excellent. This usually means less cost to those concerned as well as to the State. There is again much research that has and still is being done in this area.

There appears to be no compassion or empathy for those born off shore in their quest for full recognition, not only in their Country of Birth, but also in the Country in which they are now domiciled and have become a citizen of that Country by law, but are denied the same rights as a citizen born in that Country.

I would ask you to reconsider your stance concerning not offering a Recognition Certificate to those born off shore. The very idea of going to Court is enough to put many off of amending their paperwork, as it means ***“outing themselves personally, as many are in stealth. Therefore paperwork obtainable via a web site saves them this, what can be a very embarrassing situation”***

From correspondence from the UK department for Constitutional Affairs, I have been informed that the Gender Recognition Certificate is the ALPHA document, as if that is not granted, then nothing else will be. It appears to me that, that is the current situation in New Zealand so far as those born off shore are concerned.

Love and Peace, Kathy Anne Noble.

President, Changeling Aspects

Board Member of Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC)