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Lack of Knowledge

I am continually surprised at the lack of knowledge with regard to Trans issues by people in government departments and those appointed to look after our interests. These also include the Medical profession, at all levels. The Legal profession. Human Resources and Business in general, but most of all, the general public. This is largely due to lack of education concerning Trans people. One big misnomer that continually rears its head is the fact that Trans people are considered to be GAY, which we are not.

I have recently been asked what does the "I" stand for and would you believe the LGBTIQ acronym. When it comes to WPATH, then they are totally mystified. If we are to have people looking after our interests and future well being, let alone legislation, then I think it is only right that these people are up to speed and more to the point are appointed for the life of those enquiries. Of course, this could alter with changes of government, but we expect that as par for the course.

- I Intersex
- LGBTIQ Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer.
- WPATH World Professional Association for Transgender Health

I expect people to understand what I am talking about when at a meeting or an interview concerning Trans issues. If not, to ask about these concerns. Please not to create the idea that they understand, when in fact they have no knowledge concerning the point being discussed. With the advent of groups such as the sex discrimination, legal committee and the friendship group, it is to be hoped that the people we are to deal with are fully up to speed on our issues within the Trans community. Currently, any knowledge that they do have is very largely out of date, not by months, but in some cases, years.

We run into this problem all too often when dealing with not just government departments and agencies, but non government organisations (NGO) as well. I think one of the worst we encounter is the "Post Shop" when trying to amend our passport. In many cases we are directed back to the passport department, as the "Post Shop" staffs are not up to speed on our issues. I would also point out that there are those in these departments who will go the extra mile to help, but the usual cry is for a supervisor to help.

I have lost count of the number of times that I have been told we are "too complex" when it is not us that cause these complexities, but the vast array of laws that have been enacted to deal with us. It is the laws which create the complexities. The sooner we have laws enacted at Commonwealth level that cover the whole Nation, the better.



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If many Countries in the World can appoint a minister for Trans issues, as they are becoming ever bigger, then why is it not possible for Australia to do the same. We might then have Trans people being asked for meaningful and up to date input to these committees. This would mean using the significant expertise of many Trans people who are only too interested in making life better for all Trans people.

We respect people for their expertise, gained over time in their profession. Therefore, I expect to have the expertise of Trans people to be so recognised as being gained due to their having to live this situation 24/7.

I am fast approaching 77, so do not think there will be much movement before I leave this World. However, I would very much like to be proved wrong and go happily knowing that others, especially the young will be well looked after within the Trans and Intersex communities at all levels of government as well as within society in general. It is now time for this to happen.

Yours Sincerely

Kathy Anne Noble

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