

QLD Trans Woman Makes a Difference

As part of the celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day (8 March) The Queensland Government Department of Communities is recognising a Trans woman in its Everyday Women, Extraordinary Lives initiative.

Kathy Noble is the founder of Changeling Aspects and a tireless campaigner for the rights of the Trans community. Kathy established Changeling Aspects in 2002 with the help of a hospital board to coordinate visits to people who were in hospital recovering from surgery. The group also aims to provide advocacy and information, as well as LGBT awareness training for health care workers, higher learning institutions, and government bodies. Recently, Kathy delivered training for CareConnect to help improve their approach to transgender people in aged care and respite facilities. She says the response to the training has been 'wonderful'.

Kathy is a Member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), sits on many Queensland Government boards for LGBT concerns, ageing, and suicide, and works with the Anti-Discrimination Commission in Queensland and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Violence and discrimination towards the Trans community is real, however, Kathy says there is an increasing awareness of the Trans community amongst the wider community. She says one of the big challenges for Queensland is obtaining legal recognition for Trans people who, like Kathy, were born off-shore but reside in Queensland.

Kathy's journey and activism has been informed by her own experiences and transition. In May, Kathy will launch her first book entitled *Two Lives: A Transsexual's Story and the Fight for Recognition*. Susan Booth, Commissioner and Chair of the Australian Council of Human Rights Agencies (ACHRA), has written the foreword. Kathy says this Everyday Women, Extraordinary Lives tribute provides very much appreciated recognition.

