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## SUBMISSION TO AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### REFERENCE TO 1984 SEX ACT REFORMS CONCERNING TRANS PEOPLE

I have just returned from the three day International Human Rights Conference which was both interesting, stimulating and frustrating.

I met many people from all over the World and made many useful contacts. Consensus is that we in Australia are not doing anywhere near enough and now have even less scope to deal with Human Rights problems without a Human Rights Act/Charter. This was confirmed by Tom Calma and Julian Burnside QC.

I talked to many and raised issues at the plenary sessions and work shops concerning the plight of the Trans community, especially for the young ones coming through. I was congratulated by several panellists for raising issues that they were unaware of. I have also been asked by Julian Burnside QC to remit details of problems concerning the areas of our;

- Youngsters
- Staying married after Sex Affirmation Surgery
- Discrimination

FROM THE TRANS PERSECTIVE, we need to be

- Recognised as no longer a minority group
- Our lack of Human Rights. What Human Rights?
- Lack of discrimination laws that cover our problems
- Lack of health support and money for surgery
- Lack of understanding by professionals, the very people who are supposed to help us (Gate keepers)
- Lack of services and directories as to how to find them
- Lack of support for partners and children and families
- Lack of support at work when transitioning on the job
- Too high incidence of depression, frustration, self harm and suicidality
- This leads to future health costs on Government health departments
- Lack of support for youngsters when transitioning. Expected to Live in Role (RLR) without any legal support
- Too many laws by all nine governments. They are not fully understood as they change from jurisdiction to jurisdiction
- Lack of education at all levels of the medical fraternity
- Too many documents to amend (40+)



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- Have to understand that there are those that can be amended before Sex Affirmation Surgery and those that can only be amended after Sex Affirmation Surgery. This leads to many only changing their Name and Driver's licence
- Homelessness and out of work
- Many expelled from home, as the family cannot deal with the changes
- Many take up drugs and sex work. Sex work to survive.
- Drugs to close out the many problems that we suffer
- Sex work to keep a roof over your head and food in your belly

None of the above paints any where near a pretty picture of what Trans people have to endure.

I came away feeling that although we have achieved much in the last few years, there is still so much more to be accomplished. We need strong voices in advocacy and activism in order to achieve our full rights at law and the Human Rights under the UN Bill.

Yours Sincerely, Kathy Anne Noble.

President, Changeling Aspects

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