



TransGender Victoria Inc

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PRESENTATION TO SCRUTINY of ACTS AND REUGULATIONS COMMITTEE

4 August 2009

Sport

Further to our original submission, we would cite people such as Mianne Bagger playing golf and Will who as reported in "The Age" on 7 June wants to play football with the Victorian Country Football League. Both just want to live their lives.

Exaggerating sex and gender polarities, often called the "gender binary" frequently denies people experiencing gender identity issues the benefits of sport and exercise e.g. fitness, teamwork, social contact.

Adequate notice

Further to our submission, we believe the situation where a person affirms their identity and keeps the same job is now so well documented and successfully undertaken this provision is clearly antiquated.

We refer as examples to:

The practical transition guidelines developed by TransGender Victoria in conjunction with VECCI and Seahorse Club of Victoria (a transgender social and support group). Input to these guidelines was also received from an employer in remote Victoria who had no assistance whatsoever in dealing with an employee's transition and did very well on human principles and common sense.

The successful outcomes achieved by Metropolitan Fire Brigade and Sharon Warfe.

A large inner Melbourne manufacturing plant managed an employee's transition successfully in 2005. Feedback was received from other employees re their efforts were that the company was a great place to work.

The publication in the conservative and respected management journal Harvard Business Review in 2008 of an article

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Religion

3 excerpts from the 2007 research “Tranznation” create our position:

Participants also commented on the stereotypes of transgender people which effected people’s reactions to them, and accounted for many of their experiences of discrimination. They perceived that there was a general attitude in society that transgender people were “perverts or sex offenders” (TN230), “child predator(s)” (TN286), “prostitute(s) and junkie(s)” (TN289). Participants also commented on the role of the media in popularising these stereotypes of transgender people by portraying them in a “negative light” (TN221)

Not surprisingly, there was a clear relationship between experiencing discrimination/stigma and depression (Figure 12). Respondents who had experienced a greater number of different types of discrimination were more likely to report being currently depressed (as measured by the Prime-MD). For example, 10% of those who had not experienced any of the listed types of discrimination were depressed, while just over 60% of those who’d experienced 10-12 types of discrimination were currently depressed.

Unemployment was at 9.1%.

(Tranznation Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society 2007)

Sadly, many of the perceptions stated derives from extremists hiding behind the guise of “religious freedom.” During the period leading up to the addition of the gender identity attribute to the Equal Opportunity Act in 2000, one report in the Herald-Sun clearly implied this would create fears for children in public toilets.

The depression and unemployment created by this prejudice then means people need to turn agencies for support e.g. job networks. If these agencies enforce religious beliefs and discriminate again, this can only perpetuate the situation.

We agree that religion is allowed to have its own views behind its own walls e.g. for selection of their officials. However, to air such extreme views in public results in loss of rights, e.g. public safety, career choice for transgender people. To therefore have them expressed in public life and to possibly have such views funded by public money is not acceptable and a better outcome for all is required.

We also note that not ALL religion wants to discriminate, only a selfish minority. We note also that this selfish minority is often only too ready to discriminate against other religions.

There are many issues re democracy and religion involved, but maybe the circuit breaker is even bigger than democracy and religion, namely human beings. Let’s treat human beings with respect and on their merits.