

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF N.S.W. INC.  
March 14, 2009

## RITE OF PASSAGE NO.5

### COMMENTS ON THE USE OF THE TRANS COMMUNITY REGISTRATIONS AND HOW TO USE THEM.

Having received feed back from other trans organisations, as to my perceptions of the use and how this proposal of Society and Club registrations would be designed and implemented, I have decided to present another more detailed description of the original proposal, to hopefully answer some of the misunderstandings expressed.

First: A summary and statement

By having now completed some part of the communication journey of learning and sharing ideas with the main frame societies and clubs of the trans-community, both in Australia and in New Zealand, we in the trans-community and are now in a position to put some of these ideas and resources into a positive positions for people who are attempting to help us and support us, particularly in government.

There are many names and “boxes” or descriptive terms that are being circulated around the areas and put forward that people are identifying with, from TV, TS, lesbian, gay, gender queer, intersex, just to mention a few and some I have no idea what they are attempting to define, but it does exist.

For people outside these main transgroups, the terminology must now becoming very “blurred” or “confusing” to say the least. Luckily, after the last 12 months of communication with each other, we, the people who I am in contact, at least have a basic understanding of how each of our organisations operate, and to what aims and directions we are all wishing to follow. We have remained individual in structure as to our situations and purpose, but yet able to share information and ideas, and work together by this communication sharing of our resources, to at least go forward in one direction with one purpose, and this is, mainly to help the

rest of Society understand and tolerate our diversity and difference, and, as I called it, produce a “Rite of Passage” for all.

How can this work? What is the point of forming a register of all the trans groups?

#### FIRST

We approach a government body, such as the Mental Health Organisation in each state of Australia with a list of the support organisations in Australia, who identify and work within the trans-community fields of TV, TS, gay, sexual health, gender dysphoria etc., just to name a few.

#### SECOND

Under each of the named headings of these organisations, we put a short description of who we are, our aims and services, contact email and web sites, phone numbers, post box and so on.

This is how this would look e.g., using our own Society as an example:

The Seahorse Society of N.S.W. INC.

PO Box 2193, Boronia Park N.S.W. 2111

Description: A Trans-community social and support group for people who identify as gender cross dressers. (Now would follow a short description of our support services). For more information and details please contact:

Email: [cross-dress@seahorsesoc.org](mailto:cross-dress@seahorsesoc.org)

Website: [www.seahorsesoc.org](http://www.seahorsesoc.org)

Phone 0423 125 860 or 0404 356 747

I liken this to the type of directory that clubs in N.S.W. use already to keep in contact – e.g. the R.S.L. Obviously, the list will be quite large.

The advantage going on an already existing register outside of the trans-community, for example Mental Health, means that when someone who is experiencing personal difficulties with diversity, difference or sexual deviation or gender dysphoric and who comes into a hospital or medical service, seeking help from the professional people (counsellors, doctors, psychologists, etc.), who attempt to serve these people in their need, but may not have to

personal experience, knowledge or resources, now they will quickly have access to organisations who can help and support both the carers and the patient.

We, at the Seahorse Society, now have a network of people who can help anyone throughout Australia and New Zealand, who approach us for assistance in understanding diversity. We are able to now send them collected information to answer some of their questions and then link them up with other organisations in their own state, city, and now even country, all because of our own register collected and formed over the last 3 years.

The second part of this is that I have suggested that we, as members of the Trans-community, may opt to carry an ID card as to being a member of the trans-community, like an R.S.L club card, but without the photo. There would not under any obligation to do so. In our Society, we used to issue our members with a card like the following:

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF N.S.W. INC.

MEMBER 478

Club name Julia

Club phone numbers, etc.

Why? Because, we as members, could identify with our Society and back in the early days, if, for example, we are pulled up by the RBT and when asked for ID, because we were presenting and dressed in our other persona, we could produce a driver's license and club card.

We also used our club card for shopping at certain TV-friendly stores to obtain certain discounts. It was useful at the time.

Another reason why a register for the Club Association and Police would be beneficial, is that in today's every day living, particularly now with the emphasis on public safety issues, these organisations would have some basic understanding, if they do not already have the knowledge or understanding when presented with or by the situation of the visual appearance is not matching the 'paper work'.

I am not saying that this is the answer to education or to assist the general society to understand and tolerate all of us who identify in

some area of trans-community and practice behaviour, but this is a suggestion that could be a workable starting point to continue forward on this journey to enlightenment for everybody within or outside the trans-community.

The basic communication bridges are built. So my comment now is, do we put all of the work of the last few years achieved in the “too hard basket”, or do we go forward and develop this opportunity of change. I personally feel that this team effort will only succeed if all of us, the trans-community as a whole and the government work together to achieve the same end.

I thank you for listening.

Julia/Phil Crawshaw  
(President of the Seahorse Society N.S.W. INC 2009)