

SPEAKING OURSELVES INTO EXISTENCE

Hey Everyone,

I have had a few requests from members to keep you up to date with the lobbying efforts of AGA. So here we go...

LOBBYING

First the ACT passed the amendment to the Births Deaths and Marriages Act, so that surgery is no longer a requirement to change the marker on a person's birth certificate. Our Peter Hyndal and Heidi Yates had been lobbying for this change for ten years and it was a wonderful and moving moment to see it passed without dissent. 🌟

Also, Norrie won their case to be able to have 'non specific' on their birth certificate.

Sam, Peter and Laura were integral to the win by representing AGA and being Amicus Curiae, or Friend of the Court. What that means is that they advised the court about relevant issues pertaining to the case. And even though the ruling is binding only in NSW it has the potential to be highly influential in other jurisdictions. 🌟

Both these recent achievements are a positive affirmation for us as a community and of the good work AGA is doing in the broader community.

Just after the ACT legislation passed I got into a conversation with a checkout person, who when they heard that I was associated with AGA, exclaimed..."Oh I know you! You're the good guys!" It warmed the cockles of my heart to see in action the scope of AGA's influence and reputation. ❤️

Sam, Peter and I were asked to the Dutch Embassy the other week to sit at the table with other LGBTI community organisations and the Ambassador, Annemieke Ruigrok and her aides. It was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the difference between LGB and TI to the other groups and the Embassy and to have our voice heard. The Netherlands is renowned for their progressive policies around Trans and Intersex issues <http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/12/19/netherlands-victory-transgender-rights> and it was great to have them extend themselves to us and listen to what we had to say. 🌟

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee is going well, working together and supporting our Executive Director. Unfortunately though, we have had a member Joel Wilson, leave due to conflicting work schedules though he still remains an active member of the community.

This opens up a space for another community member to join the MC.

We are looking for anyone who has a strong background in finances to take up the mantle of Treasurer. So if you are interested in becoming an active member of the MC and help behind the scenes with the governance of AGA please drop me a line at sarastanley@genderrights.org.au

The biographies of the current members of the MC can be found on our new website  www.genderrights.org.au

THANK YOUS in no particular order

Lots of thanks to:

- 😊 Romana Starfield for letting us use her Van to ferry around the lawyers doing pro bono work for us during the Norrie hearings.
- 😊 Carolin Minchin for supplying the oil for the outdoor setting, and Dan George for oiling it up.
- 😊 Heidi Yates for donating the outdoor setting!! Its a beautiful addition to our community garden.
- 😊 Joel for mowing the lush lawns.
- 😊 Yen Eriksen for hosting the International Women's Day discussion.
- 😊 Dan George for doing an epic mailout of our new info pack.
- 😊 Jenni Atkinson without whom our drop ins would be bereft of icebreakers, laughter and cake!! Thank you so much Jenni for all you do for AGA.
- 😊 Joel Wilson for battling the lawn and going through two lawn mowers to do it!

COMING EVENTS

- April 19th: **Community Dinner** 6-10pm Our community dinners attract a diverse range of people including partners, family and friends. No need to bring anything - the event is fully catered for.
- April 26th: **Laser Tag** 8-9:30pm Time for revenge!! This event was so popular in 2013, we had to do it again. Old hat or new, come and play laser tag with the AGA youth group.
- April 27th: **Seniors Workshop** 2-5pm Celebrate Seniors Week by participating in an intergenerational storytelling evening.
- April 30th: **Speaking Up** 1-3pm How to say stuff when its really hard eg. to a doctor, an employer or family. A three session course.
- May 1st: **Certify!** 6-8pm With the amendments to the Births death and marriages act this workshop will assist you with getting both your name changed and your birth certificate amended to reflect your gender identity.

HEALTHY BONES WEEK

Between August 3rd to the 10th: **National Healthy Bones Week**

This is a joint initiative between Osteoporosis Australia and Dairy Australia

During this time cheap bone density tests are available. This is an important test to have for those of us who are aging (some gracefully and some wonderfully disgracefully)

Just ask your GP for a referral.

So that's it for April...don't forget to check out the website www.genderrights.org.au and that every wednesday is Drop In day with Jenni Atkinson 11-2pm. A time for chats, cuppas and biscuits. 🍵

Looking forward to seeing you at the community dinner!

All the best,

Sara Stanley, Chair

Samuel Rutherford, Executive Director

Isabel Mudford, Events and Volunteer Coordinator