

# AIS Support Group Australia

Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome Support Group Australia -  
Peer support group for those with AIS & related intersex conditions.

## Press/Media Policy (March 2003)

Thank you for your inquiry. In principle, we are interested in raising awareness of AIS and related intersex conditions through public education and we welcome inquiries from media professionals.

We have had some dealings with newspapers, magazines and TV film companies over the last few years, with mixed results. It has led to some helpful coverage, which has helped normalize the condition by removing some of the stigma that has surrounded it. However, our cooperation has also been abused, by sensationalized stories and offensive headlines. This means that our members are reluctant to volunteer for interviews, unless they can be advised of your credentials and objectives.

An added problem is that the group is run by volunteers who also have busy full-time occupations. A very large percentage of their spare time is taken up in running the group's helpline, answering emails, researching/writing our newsletter and web site, liaising with doctors etc. They do not have time to interface with the press/media unless it is clear, from quite early on, that people with AIS, and other intersex conditions and their families stand to gain significantly from such cooperation.

For these reasons, please answer the following questions so that we can consider your request more fully.

### 1) Please give us several paragraphs outlining:

- a) The title, style and content of your proposed programme/article,
- b) What 'angle' you are taking,
- c) Whether it is part of a series,
- d) Where/when it is likely to appear.

### 2) Please tell us about the practicalities:

- a) How long is the programme/article?
- b) Approximately how much of it will be devoted to AIS and/or other intersex conditions?
- c) How many people are you hoping to interview and in what way/where?
- d) Are you willing to disguise their identity if necessary?
- e) How much freedom do you plan to give the AIS Support Group Australia on the content and how it is presented?
- f) Are you planning to sell the article/film abroad?

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**3) Please give us some assurances that:**

- a) interviewees will be able to see/hear the item before it is filed,
- b) you agree to include contact details for the support group in your article/programme or on an associated web site (this is an absolute condition of us agreeing to collaborate),
- c) you will make a donation to the group's funds (or provide details of appearance fees/expenses for participants).

**4) Do you have a medical advisor on this programme/article?**

- a) if so, who?
- b) are you hoping to interview other doctors, and if so, who?

**5) Please tell us about yourself:**

- a) are you a journalist, researcher etc.?
- b) if you are freelance, which outlets have you written/worked for before?
- c) what is your phone number?

**6) Please study our web site carefully before going any further.** Any project involving such a complex and confusing area can only be successful and mutually beneficial if we feel that you are truly trying to understand the condition, and that you would attempt to help those affected.

Best wishes,

Anthony Briffa  
President  
AIS Support Group Australia