

Intersex debate

Some people with transsexualism clearly do not understand what intersex conditions are. In fact, a vocal minority are trying to redefine the entire definition of intersex to include them without consideration and respect for those with intersex conditions and our many differences. Why not celebrate diversity? What's so wrong in accepting transsexualism as it is?

Transsexualism is not recognised in law, science or medicine as being an intersex condition. Medical diagnostic procedures specifically exclude people with intersex conditions from being diagnosed with transsexualism. The AISSGA has recently received written statements from the Monash Gender Dysphoria Clinic and leading Australian medical and scientific specialists clearly stating that even if a biological basis for transsexualism were proved, it would still not be an intersex condition.

The Australian Medical Association defines intersex as a person "born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia or an internal reproductive system that is not exclusively either male or female. This word replaces hermaphrodite." People with transsexualism on the other hand are born physically male or female but with the 'brain sex' of the opposite gender. They are different.

I suggest Karen Gurney (Letters, *Bnews*, May 22) read the excellent review of the "Kevin" decision in this regard, which is available on our website (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/-aissg/news.htm>). I find it incredibly ironic that she asks to stop arguing labels and definitions when she really simply wants us to accept her labels and definitions.

Tony Briffa
AISSGA