

What is it like to be Young and transgender?

Transgender people are probably one of the most misunderstood minority groups in the world.

However, in many ancient Native American tribes transgender members were revered and celebrated. As with other minorities, fear and ignorance often foster prejudice against transgender people. Because of this, many transgender people don't allow themselves to freely express who they are, they don't talk about how they feel to anyone and often suffer from anxiety and depression.

It's not easy to admit to yourself that you have "different" feelings about who you are and to come to terms with being transgender.

Looking in the mirror and asking yourself "what's wrong with me?" and "why do I feel so different from my friends?" is a scary moment. But it's also a very common and natural one for transgender people. We have all had to go through that frightening self-examination when we were wondering about our gender identity and where we fit in.

Unfortunately, some people make it very clear how they think about transgender individuals by using terrible jokes, hurtful stereotypes and rumours about transgender people.

There are those who hate anyone or any group that is "different." Not everyone, but many people feel uncomfortable about transgender people. It's easy to stay "in the closet," which is a painful and lonely place to be. But only you know how you feel. As you find out "who you are" the closet door will open, allowing you to walk out if you wish.



For any information or to refer Someone to us, contact:

AGENDER New Zealand Inc
New Zealand support group
for all transgendered people.

PO Box 11755
Manners St,
WELLINGTON

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www.agender.org.nz

Supported By



WHO ARE THE TRANSGENDERED?



SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

www.agender.org.nz

What is Agender New Zealand?

Agender NZ is a support and lobby organisation for transgendered people including their families, friends and co workers.

It was originally formed as CD Rom in March 1996 by Claudia and Janet McKay, a happily married couple who wanted support for themselves but could find nothing available in New Zealand at that time.

From the beginning it was decided to welcome anyone with gender issues, partly because of New Zealand's relatively small population, but also from a wish not to discriminate between segments of the trans community.

The first meeting was attended by 5 people in Wellington and now we have members throughout New Zealand.

We endeavour to provide one to one help with individuals, where possible. We have organised many transgendered conferences (we believe unique in the southern hemisphere. We provide a quarterly newsletter and are constantly working on issues affecting the whole trans community, such as human rights, health, and identity document issues.

This is an exciting time for transgendered people throughout the world, attitudes are changing, acceptance is a reality for many and a real possibility for others, no longer a distant dream, opportunities for us are expanding all the time and Agender is amongst those leading the way in New Zealand.

THEY ARE...



Lynda

"A self employed Graphic Designer. She enjoys movies, the theatre, music & reading. She loves to take long walks with her dog Jess".



Christina

Is a self employed Computer Technician and enjoys music & Socialising.



Natalie

A self-employed contractor who enjoys tramping and the great outdoors.



Michelle

Michelle is a bi-gendered person. Her interests are travel, walking in nature & New Age pursuits.

Agender New Zealand Mission Statement

To help the transgendered person and partner come to terms with transgenderism in a positive way.

To promote the emotional and social well being of it's members, & transgendered people in general.

To provide a safe and secure venue for transgendered people and families to meet together socially and to share information and ideas.

To eliminate the social stigma attached to transgendered people.

To educate the general public about transgenderism and work to create a more accepting world.

To take transgenderism out of the closet into the mainstream of life.

What does it mean to be transgender?

Transgender is a term used to describe anyone who bends or challenges "traditional" gender roles.

There are many kinds of differently gendered people, including gay and straight crossdressers, transsexuals, drag queens and kings, transgendered, androgens, and gender benders of all sorts. Just as gay men and lesbians step over the line drawn by society's heterosexual norms by loving members of the same sex, transgender people transgress gender norms by wearing clothing not generally associated with their own gender (such as a biological male who likes to wear dresses). In some cases, transgender people modify their bodies through surgery or hormone treatment to be more like the "other" gender.