

who is Gender Bridge?

GenderBridge is a non-profit incorporated society formed to help and support transgendered people or people who have a friend or family member who is trans. We are Auckland based; however, our helpline answers calls from around New Zealand.

We provide education on transgender issues to organisations and actively promote the legal rights of trans people.

We particularly support the clarification of the Human Rights Act in relation to gender identity.

We provide a social network through which trans people can meet and socialise. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at OUTLineNZ at Pompallier Centre (Suite 5) 2 Pompallier Terrace, Ponsonby, Auckland.

Friends of trans people are also welcome to attend these meetings.

Please feel free to contact us for more information, to join GenderBridge, or even just for a chat.

You can contact us on 0800 TG Help (844 357) or find us on the web at www.genderbridge.org

Common Wonderings

You are not alone. Sometimes things can feel a bit tough, but there are lots of people out there who feel the same way and can offer support..

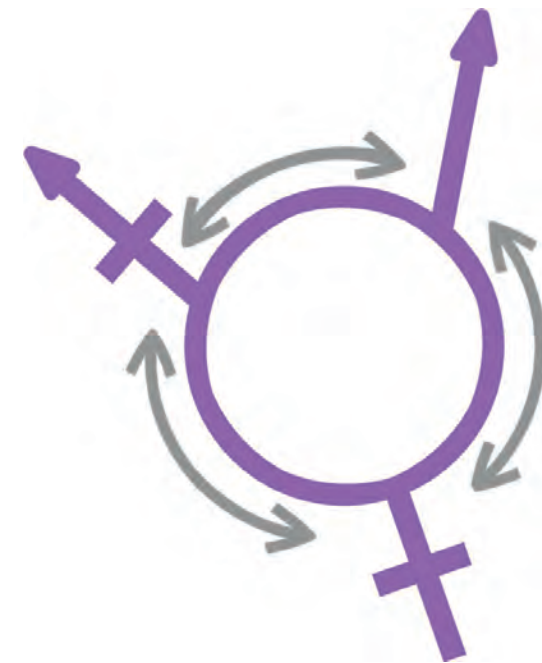
If you think you might be trans, it can help to talk to a counselor or doctor who has worked with trans people, or a trans person to clarify your feelings.

There are lots of theories around about why people are transgender and whether there is something that happens before birth or after birth in the environment someone grows up in that makes them trans. There is no one answer to this, other than that trans people are just part of the great diversity of being human, like having blue eyes or being left handed.

Trans people have been documented as present in history for hundreds of years but the first successful surgery wasn't until the 1950s. The steps people now take to transition continue to improve with technology.

The terms described on the other side of this pamphlet are not definitive; they are merely here as a guide to educate. There are lots of labels people use to describe their identities, and some people choose not to use labels at all.

If you feel that your gender identity does not match your physical body, it is your decision whether or not to make physical changes such as taking hormones or having surgery. It is advisable to consult medical professionals should you wish to do so, however. GenderBridge can provide basic information and some professional contacts, but are not qualified to give medical advice.



Gender Bridge

**Pompallier Centre
Suite 5, 2 Pompallier Terrace
Ponsonby**

PO Box 68-236, Newton, Auckland 1145

0800 TG HELP (0800 844 357)
www.genderbridge.org
info@genderbridge.org

Definitions explained...



Gender Bridge

Terminology

Sex

A person's biological make-up (their body and chromosomes), defined usually as either 'male' or 'female' and including indeterminate sex.

Gender

Social construction of what it means to be a woman or man, including roles, expectations and behaviour.

Gender Identity

A person's internal, deeply felt sense of being male or female (or something other or in between). A person's gender identity may or may not correspond with their sex.

Gender expression

someone expresses their sense of masculinity and/or femininity externally

Gender reassignment services

The full range of medical services that trans people may require in order to medically transition, including counseling, psychotherapy, hormone treatment, electrolysis, initial surgeries such as a mastectomy, hysterectomy or orchidectomy, and a range of genital reconstruction surgeries.

Trans

Increasingly being used as a broad, neutral term for people whose gender identity differs their biological sex

Transgender (TG)

A person whose gender identity is different from their physical sex at birth.

Transsexual (TS)

A person who has changed or is in the process of changing, their physical sex to match their gender identity. For example by taking hormones or surgery.

Intersex

Someone biologically between the sexes (e.g. XXY). Can be born with complete or ambiguous genitals. Some have had surgery in infancy

Sexual Orientation

Either Heterosexual, Homosexual, Bisexual or Asexual. It is dependent upon who you are attracted to. Just like people whose gender identity matches their physical sex, transgender people experience attraction to other people with the same diversity.

Cross Dresser

A person who wears the clothing and/or accessories that are considered by society to correspond to the opposite gender.

Passing

Being perceived as the gender which you identify as.

Queen

Another term for someone born with a male body who has a female gender identity.

Tangata ira Tane

A Māori term describing someone born with a female body who has a male gender identity.

Transitioning

The process taken by trans people to live fully as how they identify. This may include social steps such as telling other people, changing identification documents, as well as medical steps such as taking hormones and surgery.

Drag Queens and Drag Kings

A person who usually presents a larger than life image of women or men, exaggerating sexual stereotypes for entertainment.

MtF/trans woman

Male-to-Female/someone born with a male body who has a female gender identity.

FtM/trans man

Female-to-Male/someone born with a female body who has a male gender identity

GenderQueer

A person who does not conform to traditional gender norms and expresses a non-standard gender identity. They may not change their physical sex or cross dress, but may identify as GenderQueer, gender neutral or androgynous.

Whakawahine, Hinehi, Hinehua

Some Maori terms describing someone born with a male body who has a female gender identity

Takataapui

An intimate companion of the same sex. Today used to describe Maori gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Fa'afafine, Fakaleiti, Akava'ine, Mahu, Vaka salewa lewa, Rae rae, Fafafine

Terms used to describe Pacifica trans and 'third sex' people. These terms also have wider cultural meanings that are best understood in their cultural context.

Winyanktecha (Wintke)

Lacota Indian word meaning Gender-Crosser - Literal translation "Two-souls person".

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as a basis for understanding