

H. RESOURCES:

Terminology

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

Gender: The social and cultural construction of what it means to be a man or a woman, 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: How someone expresses their sense of masculinity and/or femininity externally.

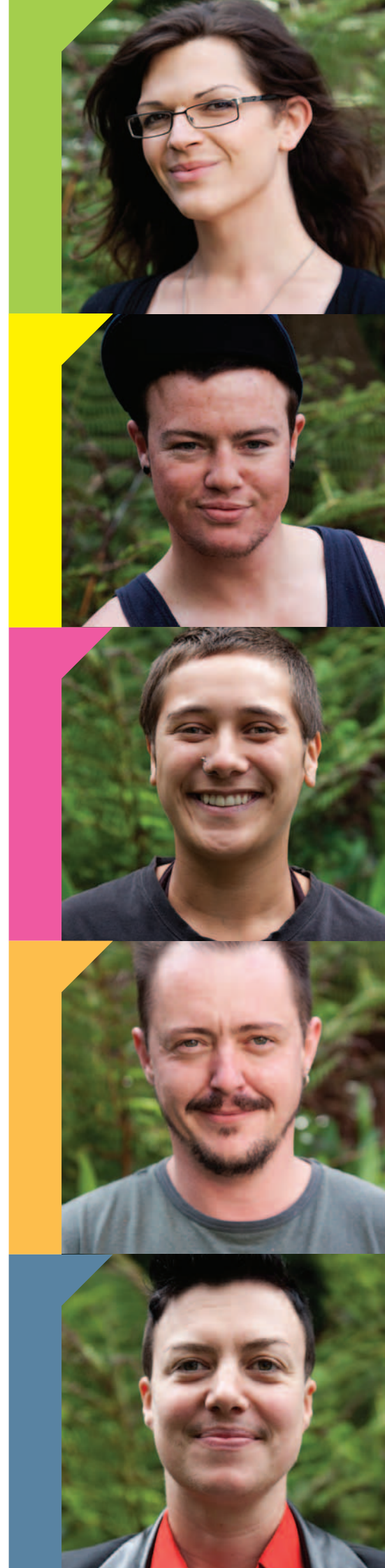
Gender reassignment services: The full range of medical services that trans people may require in order to medically transition, including counselling, psychotherapy, hormone treatment, electrolysis, initial surgeries such as a mastectomy, hysterectomy or orchidectomy, and a range of genital reconstruction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

Transitioning: Steps taken by trans people to live in their gender identity. These often involve medical treatment to change one's sex through hormone therapy and may involve gender reassignment surgeries (sometimes referred to as gender realignment surgeries by trans people).

Gender identity and its expression vary greatly. There is no universally accepted umbrella term that adequately conveys the rich diversity of gender identities. Where it is necessary to use a generic term, the Human Rights Commission uses the term 'trans' or 'trans people/person'. Many trans people who have transitioned prefer to be known simply as a man or a woman.

People are free to define their own gender identity and not all trans people fit neatly into one of the definitions below. The Human Rights Commission collated this list to describe the range of terms used by people who made submissions to the Transgender Inquiry.

Whakawahine, Hinehi, Hinehua: Some Māori terms describing 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.

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

Transsexual: A person who has changed, or is in the process of changing, their physical sex to conform to their gender identity.

Takatāpui: An intimate companion of the same sex. Today used to describe Māori gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans people.

MtF / trans woman: Male-to-female / someone born with a male body who has a female gender identity.

Genderqueer: People who do not conform to traditional gender norms and express a non-standard gender identity. Some may not change their physical sex or cross dress, but identify as genderqueer, gender neutral or androgynous.

FtM / trans man: Female-to-male / someone born with a female body who has a male gender identity.

Fa'afafine (Samoa, American Samoa and Tokelau), Fakaleiti or Leiti (Tonga), Fakafifine (Niue), Akava'ine (Cook Islands), Mahu (Tahiti and Hawaii), Vakasalewalewa (Fiji), Palopa (Papua New Guinea): Terms Pasifika trans women and 'third sex' people use to describe themselves, which have wider meanings that are best understood within their cultural context.

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

Cross-dresser: A person who wears the clothing and/or accessories considered by society to correspond to the opposite gender.



Related Terms:

Intersex: A general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not seem to fit the typical biological definitions of female or male. Some people now call themselves 'intersex'.

Most people who are intersex or have an intersex medical condition identify simply as male or female, and are not trans. Most trans people are not born with intersex medical conditions.

Sexual orientation: The direction of a person's sexuality relative to their own sex. Sexual orientation is usually categorised as; homosexual (directed at the same sex), heterosexual (directed at the opposite sex), or bisexual (directed at both sexes).

Gender identity is about someone's personal sense of maleness and/or femaleness. It is different from sexual orientation which is who someone is attracted to or chooses as a sexual or romantic partner. Trans people may be heterosexual/straight, lesbian, gay or bisexual – just like non-trans people.

Gay: Can refer to homosexual/same-sex attracted women and men, but is more often used in relation to males.

Lesbian: Used exclusively in relation to homosexual/same-sex attracted women.

Queer: Has been used as a derogatory term for gay and lesbian people but is increasingly reclaimed as a positive term, particularly by young people. It is sometimes used as a broader term to also include trans people.

