

Supporting trans and gender diverse children and their families



Ms Janet Brown
Child and family Partner, Vic

Janet is a parent, and she has a 16 year old daughter, who is transgender. Her daughter eventually transitioned at age 14, after several years of inner turmoil, significant anxiety and very low mood, and she had great difficulties in attending school in years 7,8 and part of year 9.

Through this experience, Janet has connected to hundreds of other families whose children are either transgender, gender diverse or gender questioning. Peer support from parents in similar situations has been invaluable, and a source of strength to her.

This group of children and young people experience much scrutiny, judgement and criticism from many groups within society, and of all the groups of children who seek support from clinics such as the Gender Clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital, Janet can think of no other group of young people whose truth is so questioned, whose needs are so heavily debated and whose lives are so politicised.

Janet's primary motivation to share their family and her daughter's very personal story is to demystify the experience of being transgender, normalise families who are on this journey with their children, and in doing so, create a safer and more accepting world for her daughter and others like her.

Janet is a Social Worker, working within the Public Health system in Victoria.



Ms Susanne Prosser
Youth Worker, Vic

For over two decades Susanne has been an advocate for change and social justice in the youth and community sector, as a front line worker, as a manager and leader.

This has included working for non-government organisations, local and state government, with schools and youth and community service providers.

For the past 15 years she has been working with LGBTI young people, as the Manager of the Safe Schools program with the Department of Education in Victoria, and for a local government running a social and support group for LGBTI young people.

She has dedicated time working for and alongside trans and gender diverse young people to improve service provision. Creating safe, inclusive and more accessible services provided by organisations.

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Dr Nicholas Brayshaw
General Practitioner Vic

Dr Nic Brayshaw is a family general practitioner in Geelong, with 35 years of broad and varied professional experience. He has a longstanding passion for promoting equity in health,

and prevention through empowerment and inclusion.

In the past decade he has developed, in response to community demand, a special interest in the healthcare needs of people who identify as transgender or gender diverse.

He believes trans and gender diverse persons, like all Australians should be able to access support and healthcare requirements through their local general practice, in partnership with specialist services where appropriate.



Associate Professor Michelle Telfer
Paediatrician, Vic

Associate Professor Michelle Telfer is a paediatrician and Adolescent Medicine Specialist. She is currently the Director of Adolescent Medicine at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Melbourne. She is also the Director of the RCH Gender Service, being instrumental in the expansion of the service with rising demand for trans-medicine in children and adolescents.

Michelle was awarded the 2017 GLOBE Community Award for Ally of the year. In 2015 and 2018, the RCH Gender Service was awarded the Minister for Mental Health's Award for excellence in consumer leadership and advocacy at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards.

In addition to improving medical and mental health services for the transgender population, Michelle played a major role in successfully advocating for legal reform, with transgender young people now able to access hormone and surgical treatment without the need for approval by the Family Court of Australia.

She is also the lead author of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for trans and gender diverse children and adolescents which was recently endorsed through an editorial in The Lancet.



Facilitator: Dan Moss
Workforce Development Manager, Emerging Minds, SA

Dan Moss most recently worked as Assistant Director, Performance, Reporting and Evaluation at the Department for Child Protection. In this role he worked closely with the Early Intervention Research Directorate to explore the social determinants of child disadvantage and child protection involvement.

Previously, Dan worked for Uniting Communities for 15 years, as a practitioner, supervisor and senior manager in a range of services with children, parents and families dealing with the effects of family violence, child sexual abuse, mental health conditions and drug and alcohol use.

As a practitioner, Dan had a strong interest in narrative and strength-based engagement strategies with children, parent and families. Dan has recently submitted his PhD thesis which includes research on approaches to men's behaviour change programs and a creative writing component.

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