

GENDER INCONGRUENCE AND DEPATHOLOGISATION: BUILDING ON THE GROWING SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN SEXUAL HEALTH AROUND GENDER DIVERSITY.

Authors: Lena Van Hale^{1,2}, Sam Winter³

¹*Magenta Sex Worker Project, Perth, Australia*, ²*Sexual Health Quarters, Perth, Australia* ³*Curtin University, Perth, Australia*

Background/Purpose: As social acceptance of transgender healthcare improves, gender incongruence is increasingly depathologised and re-positioned as a condition of sexual health. Within this updating field, no definitive Australian guideline for the clinical treatment of transgender adults presently exists. Outdated models of care may reduce adherence, and result in discriminatory treatments presenting serious risks to patient safety. The emergence of new classifications such as the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases, requires we update our practise to centre depathologisation and informed consent to reflect the growing social consciousness within medicine internationally.

Approach: To guide practise, this project has been set up to aid the development of future clinical guidelines for adult transgender people. The presentation compares research including case studies, and international classifications, against patient experiences within comparable settings.

Outcomes/Impact: The development of better guidelines for trans and gender diverse healthcare seeks to improve patient experiences by removing unnecessary barriers to care, to allow for better health outcomes by centralising the health cascade, and to enhance the quality of the clinical relationship.

Innovation and Significance: This project seeks to improve patient health and wellbeing by influencing the development of future clinical guidelines for treatment of adult trans and gender diverse people. This will enable tailored approaches that better reflect the diversity of presentations within this priority population, and should consequentially improve service integration; reducing service strain and waiting lists and allowing for better patient monitoring to improve the collection of health data.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: Nil