

Acknowledgement of Country



Image credit: Murri Watch, 2011



Providing quality ageing services for people of all gender experiences and bodies

Dr Gávi Ansara, MSc, PhD

Manager of Research & Policy

[Some slides developed for presentations
with Samantha Edmonds & Ollie Hand]



SILVER RAINBOW



National LGBTI Health Alliance



SILVER RAINBOW



Jamal & Andrew

(from Blumer, Ansara, & Watson, 2013)



Image credit: HuffingtonPost.com



SILVER RAINBOW



Jamal & Andrew

(from Blumer, Ansara, & Watson, 2013)



Image credit: Lewis Duckett & Billy Jones in NYTimes.com



SILVER RAINBOW



Genders can be...

CATEGORY	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C
HOW MANY?	NO GENDER	ONE GENDER	MORE THAN ONE
WHEN?	SAME ALWAYS	FLUID/ VARIES OVER TIME	FLUID/ VARIES BY CONTEXT
KNOWN?	AS A CHILD	DURING ADOLESCENCE	AS AN ADULT/WHEN AGEING
AFFIRMED?	SOCIALLY	ADMIN	MEDICALLY

REMEMBER OPTIONS D, E, F, AS WELL! 😊



Gender across cultures...



Crystal Love, a Sistergirl from the Tiwi Islands, who is a leading speaker and community advocate

Photo Credit: Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association, 2013



“So how many genders are there?”

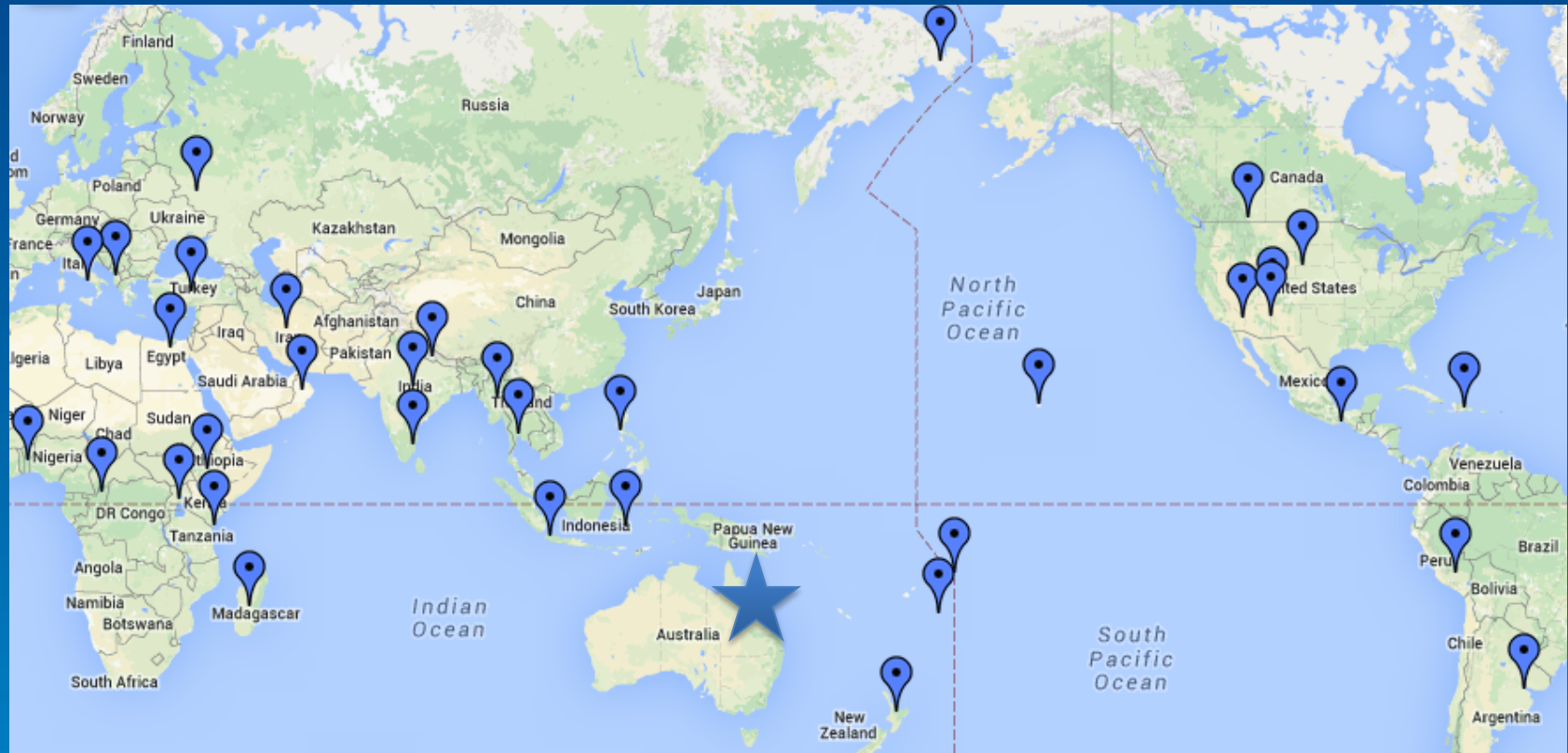


Image credit: PBS



SILVER RAINBOW



What are intersex characteristics/traits?

- Intersex is an umbrella term for physical characteristics/traits not typically 'female' or 'male' by modern medicine
- These characteristics could be:
 - Chromosomal (XX, XY, XXY, XXXY, XO,...)
 - Hormonal
 - Gonadal (testes and/or ovaries)
 - Genital



Who are people with intersex traits?



Gina Wilson, a leading intersex activist and a founder of OII Australia



“Who are we talking about?”

- May or may not be ‘identity’
- May or may not be ‘members of community’
- Might be heterosexual
- Cannot be determined by external ‘clues’
- People might use the same words differently



SILVER RAINBOW



“How many?”

- People with intersex characteristics/traits:
No firm figures; an estimated 1.7% of people have intersex characteristics/traits (Blackless et al., 2000; Fausto-Sterling), though some est. 4%
- Polycystic ovary syndrome up to 15-20%



SILVER RAINBOW



“How many?”

- People of trans and non-binary experience:
Nationally representative NZ high school students: 1.2% identified as “transgender” + 2.5% unsure = 3.7% trans or questioning (Clark et al., 2014)
- Likely under-representation due to school-leavers, non-identified, and environment



Brie & Rosalina Curtis

Sisters & Brothers NT Co-Founders



Image credit: Star Observer



SILVER RAINBOW



Legislation & Policy

- National Ageing & Aged Care Strategy
- Consumer-Directed Care
- *Aged Care Act 1997*
- *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*



Brenda Appleton, Transgender Victoria

Slide adapted from presentation

by Gávi Ansara & Samantha Egan 2015 SILVER RAINBOW



Distinct models of ageing services

Consumer-Directed

- Step along the way to full entitlement, not endpoint
- Elder makes decisions
- Elder decides “menu”
- Staff consulted but not “deciders”
- Emphasis on elders’ “health literacy”

Person-Centred

- Origins in Carl Rogers’ humanistic counselling
- Staff make decisions
- Staff decide options
- Elder consulted but not “decider”
- Emphasis on staff consulting elders/being centred on their wishes



Legislation & Policy

1 Aug 2013 *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*
includes:

- Sexual orientation and relationship status
- Gender identity (includes expression, history, etc.)
- Intersex status (physical variations)
- Service delivery by faith-based organisations
- Both direct and indirect discrimination

Slide adapted from presentation
by Gávi Ansara & Samantha Edmonds, 2015

SILVER RAINBOW



Transphobia vs. Cisgenderism

Transphobia

- Intentional, hostile
- Uses “cis/trans” binary
- Slurs like “tranny”
- Banning people
- Emphasis on individual beliefs and attitudes

Cisgenderism

- May be unintentional or well-intentioned
- Using wrong pronoun
- Forgetting people exist
- Emphasis on structural issues and function

Slide adapted from presentation
by Gávi Ansara & Samantha Edmonds, 2015



SILVER RAINBOW



Structural violence

- Definitions of 'family' that privilege biological relatives and devalue non-biological kin
- Gender and body assumptions in services
- Assumptions about 'domestic' cohabitation
- Specific experiences of ageing excluded



Top ageing concerns of elder lesbian women of trans experience

(from Witten, 2015)

- (1) Becoming unable to care for myself
- (2) becoming dependent on others
- (3) becoming confused or “demented” (sic)
- (4) becoming sick or disabled



SILVER RAINBOW



Some common fears about ageing

(from Witten, 2015)

- “Dementia is my worst fear...”
- “I am already scared of death. I don't want to die. Being transsexual, I worry I will die thanks to some bigoted doctor ... or something bad will happen to me and they will let me die because I'm transsexual.”



SILVER RAINBOW



Some common concerns about ageing

(from Witten, 2015)

- “I am a woman with a penis. What will they do to me in a nursing home? What will happen if I cannot defend myself because of dementia?”
- “If I have to go into a home, as a tall non-op who might have thinning hair by then, I might be treated as male. I worry I might be socially isolated.”



Some common concerns about ageing

(from Witten, 2015)

- “I need to wear a wig. If I am in a retirement home or nursing home, I am unlikely to be able to maintain a feminine appearance. If I can't continue to take hormones, I may get hairy again.”



Some common fears about ageing

(from Witten, 2015)

- “My biggest fear is that of being broke, no place to live and all alone and, as a consequence as usual being denied assistance because I am transgender (even though I am technically intersex Klinefelters)”



SILVER RAINBOW



Some common fears about ageing

(from Witten, 2015)

- “Will I be treated with dignity? Will I be respected? Will I be in a defenseless situation at the mercy of those that do not or are unwilling to understand me being trans? ... Not much hope here for me getting old. *Will I have to kill myself so I do not have to face begging from the state for crumbs?*”



SILVER RAINBOW



Dementia-related care— Example

(from Marshall et al., 2015)

“Jamie had been living as a woman since the age of 80. She was married to a female for 66 years, and her wife passed away when Jamie was in her late 80s. The couple had one daughter together. Jamie lived at a long-term care facility and was referred to psychiatry after she began expressing confusion to the staff regarding whether she was male or female.

The staff wished to have some direction in how to approach this patient's gender role—what pronoun should they use? Should her clothing and haircut be feminine or masculine?”



SILVER RAINBOW



Dementia-related care— Policy Gaps

(from Marshall et al., 2015)

“What gender did Jamie identify with in the past? What gender did Jamie identify with in the present? And, if the latter question remained unclear, how should Jamie's gender identity be approached now? **Given the level of cognitive impairment, would this decision fall to a substitute decision maker?**”



SILVER RAINBOW



Distinct models of ageing services

Consumer-Directed

- Step along the way to full entitlement, not endpoint
- Elder makes decisions
- Elder decides “menu”
- Staff consulted but not “deciders”
- Emphasis on elders’ “health literacy”

Person-Centred

- Origins in Carl Rogers’ humanistic counselling
- Staff make decisions
- Staff decide options
- Elder consulted but not “decider”
- Emphasis on staff consulting elders/being centred on their wishes



Accreditation Standards- Implementation?

- **1.8 Information Systems**
 - Effective information management systems are in place.
- **3.4 Emotional Support**
 - Each resident receives support in adjusting to life in the new environment and on an ongoing basis.
- **3.6 Privacy and Dignity**
 - Each resident's right to privacy, dignity and confidentiality is recognised and respected.



SILVER RAINBOW



Contact Details

Dr. Gávi Ansara – Manager of Research & Policy
gavi.ansara@lgbtihealth.org.au

References for cited research available on request.

Thank you!



SILVER RAINBOW

