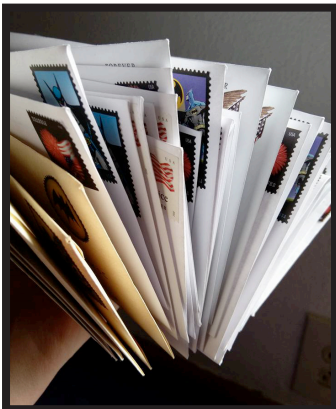


## Third Edition of Inside Out!

Dear Inside Out community,

We hope you all enjoyed the 2nd newsletter, we are really excited about this 3rd edition. It's been amazing receiving all of your letters, feedback, pictures and stories, thank you to everyone whose has contributed. The mailing list is growing steadily thanks to everyone who has been sharing it around with their inside communities. We've got birthday card designs coming in and would love to share them! If you want to receive a birthday card please let us know when your birthday is.



We are a new Australia-wide grassroots group aiming to build a network of LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer) people, sistergirls and brotherboys both inside and outside prisons. We want to create a sense of community across the

walls, amplify the voices of prisoners and provide access to information, community news and resources. We'll produce a new edition of the newsletter four times a year and mail it out free to prisoners who go on our mailing list. If you aren't already on it, just send us a letter with your address. If you want to contribute artwork, poetry, letters or articles to the next edition,

please send them to us. Or if you have ideas about something you would like to see in the newsletter, feedback or ideas for what our group could do, we would also love to hear from you. Thanks to Sam Wallman for the heading design!

## Info for prisoners in Queensland

If you are in Queensland and want to contribute something to the newsletter, you should speak to your parole officer or Queensland Corrective Services first. This is because the Corrective Services Act makes it unlawful to publish a statement from a prisoner (including someone on parole) without the permission of QCS. However, there are protections in the Australian Constitution about freedom of communication, so QCS will need to have a good reason to stop publication. Please send us your article with any correspondence you have permitting publication.

If you want free legal advice to get your voice heard, we recommend you contact Prisoners' Legal Service on the ARUNTA or write to them at PO Box 5162 WEST END QLD 4101

As far as we are aware, other states do not have these restrictions, however if you want to be certain you might want to check with a lawyer first.

**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this newsletter is being produced and distributed. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. Soverinty was never ceded.**



## Letters and Ideas for the newsletter

When you write to us, please indicate if you would be happy for parts of

your letter to be published in the newsletter. We will not publish any letter unless you have given us permission to do so, and will treat all correspondence as confidential otherwise.



### Letter from Bryan

It was great to be able to read the newsletter after receiving it from a friend of mine who already receives it. It's great to see a support network starting up to give Australian LGBTI inmates an avenue to express feelings, worries and experiences within the corrections system.

After being on remand for 2 years now, I've realised it is extremely hard to trust inmates with the truth of being LGBTQ. Being able to talk freely about your personal concerns is difficult and sometimes only lasts a short while with so many inmate movements from correction centre to correction centre. So I treasure I've found a good friend to unload my troubles with. So I think Inside Out will be a lifeline to many! Keep up the great work so far. I can't wait to read the upcoming 3rd edition.

Stay strong Bros & Sisters  
Bryan B (NSW)

### Letter from Lanie

Dear Inside Out,  
My name is Lanie and I got your details from a friend of mine that I met in jail. This is my first time in jail and I hope will be my last. My friend told me about you guys after we had a conversation. She was open about her sexuality and being a lesbian. I felt very comfy with her and was able to open up and tell her I am bisexual. It was good to be able to find someone in jail I could trust enough to open up to. Not everyone can find that someone they can truly open up to. I am so thankful to her for being there for me. This girl and I have a very close bond and I have taken her under my

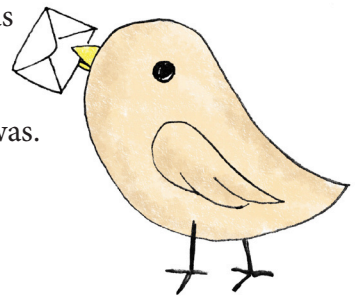
wing and am looking after her like a mother would. I have 3 children and I miss them so very much. She has no mother so to speak of, so our relationship has worked out for the both of us. She gets a "Mother" and I get to be a mum while in here. Everyone I've met in here seems to be fine with me until they find out I'm bisexual, then they look at me differently. Why? In this day and age "LGBTIQ" people should be treated no different than "normal" people. We are all "People" after all. I'm proud to be out and even my kids know who and what I am. My eldest is 17 and youngest is 10. Boy 17, Girl 14, Boy 10. They love me no matter what and so do my mother and father. When my children and I go walking around my eldest and I point out females we can both "perv" on lol. He thinks it's great as does my father and soon my youngest. My daughter is also proud of me for being me. They don't love me any less as I'm open about who I am with everyone.

I have just read the second edition and really enjoyed reading it but I have to give it back to my jail daughter. I have a couple of comments about it. I really love Dean's idea of the lonely hearts penpals. I would like to be a part of that. I also loved Taryn-Michelle's ideas of the comic strip and Dear Inside Out Column.

\*Taryn-Michelle, your poem – What Am I? Was very lovely and touched me. It brought me to tears as it reminds me of my life. Thank you for showing me I'm not alone.

\*Thank you Inside Out for taking the time to read everything that is sent to you and for bringing out this newsletter. It has shown me there is more out there for people like me than I thought there was.

Yours truly,  
Lanie (Vic)



### Wise words from Big James

Hi guys! Sorry for my absence of entry to the last edition of "Inside Out." The magazine has gone from strength to strength, and I'm so proud to see so many people sharing their stories. I was extremely touched when I read the stories from Troy and Paul, both mentioning being touched by what I had wrote or what my fiancé Rory had wrote in the first edition. Rory or I never wrote to try and inspire people but we all take inspiration from all corners of the earth. Thank you guys for your kind words. Rory and I are very lucky to have each other, to have people recognise our love has



really touched us. Troy and Paul, we thank you both and may God bless you two. Another contributor to the magazine is Dean Bell. I know Dean quite well. He is a proud young gay man. I was disturbed to read of Dean's struggles, as he has always done nothing more than make me smile. You are a class act Dean, and you'll be laying in your Prince Charming's lap in no time. Be yourself my friend, you're one hell of a catch. I have noticed that a lot of the entries involve the tough times we face as LGBTIQ peoples. Not taking away from our struggles because they're real and torment us daily. But I'd like to say this: we were all created this way for whatever reason. We are all so lucky to have been created as these unique individuals. If we are shown hate for who we are, then I embrace that hate. I love being a Gay man, especially in gaol. I am discriminated against daily and I allow it to make me feel special. Neither of us are defined as gay, or black, or white, tall, fat, smart, athletic, etc, we are defined by what we do whilst on earth. Live life happy, healthy and positive. Be yourselves and nothing else, embrace your uniqueness. That special someone will only be found if you are your true self. My beautiful fiancé Rory will be released before printing of this issue, but he sends his love, support and thank you to all involved with Inside Out. A special mention to Amanda and Miranda, it takes a special kind of person to do what you 2 do. Thank you so much.

Much love to all of you, my peeps.

Fly that rainbow flag.

And to all the haters...

James Stephens (NSW)

Long Bay

### Quick one from James

Mental health struggles amongst our community is a real issue. I personally have many struggles and I watch my fiancé fight mental health issues daily. You don't need to talk to another LGBTIQ inmate or friend to get help for these issues. Talk about your problems and please do not be ashamed. What happens in our heads is out of our control.

You'll be surprised at who will help if you're just brave enough to ask for it. When sharing a problem, it gets halved. Be strong, and talk about Mental Health issues. Individuality is Perfect!



Artwork by Vanessa Gibson, Texas, USA  
Published in the 2017 J22nd Zine



### A letter from Taryn-Michelle

I really enjoyed the stories and articles in the newsletter, especially the one titled: "Time in prison can be a waste, or an opportunity" by Dusty Shaw. Being in Acacia Prison (WA) which is run by a private company, Serco, I have seen many differences between a state run prison and a privately run prison. They level of apathy is sometimes toxic. I too went through the phases of institutionalised progression, though I've only been in 6 years to date. I now focus on continuing my education and also working as a Peer Tutor teaching what I have learned to my fellow inmates so as promote a break from old cycles and to embrace positive goals, one success at a time.

I enjoyed the article piece by Esther about '360' as a possible vision for the future. As a transgender woman I am excited that there are talented people with ideas and visions to undo the stereotypes that have become household thinking. I especially like "360 would encourage the full turn around in the lives of women with criminal history and see them share their life experiences to help others avoid suffering a similar fate and offer positive reinforcement including education and employment opportunities."

The more passionate I become the more I want to be involved in making a difference. It gives me hope that I may be able to apply my experience in management and subsequent skillsets to possible employers willing to put aside prejudices and accept me into their workforce.

It's so awesome to know there is a community where I am accepted for who I am and talk with people who understand the day to day issues surrounding us. Keep up the great work everyone!

In Solidarity We Find Community,  
Taryn-Michelle Hislop



## A letter from Paul

Hi Team @ Inside Out!

Just writing to let you know that I have moved. I've now been here a little over a week and have found this location to have a few prisoners within our LGBTIQ+ community. I have met and spoken to many who have freely expressed the need for a support network here of mentors and/or a support group for LGBTIQ+ prisoners specifically.

Like myself, most prisoners here progress from Hopkins which has S.I.L.O's (sexual identity liaison officers) and a support group which has grown in participants considerably over the last 6 months.

I have already started the ball rolling for myself to see if a support group can be established here, and have since found that there are a couple of others here who have recently taken that next step to get motivated on forming a support group. Awesome! It's great to see others recognise the need. As with everything in prison, there is a process involved and it may take time to get an 'idea to reality.'

Please pass my regards onto everyone and HAPPY MARDI GRAS people!

Paul West (Vic)



Artwork by Damien Linnane (NSW)



## A letter from Troy

Hey Miranda and Inside Out Readers,

Thank you for the 2nd issue of Inside Out. It is looking good and certainly filled with a variety of stories etc. It is good to see some new people sharing.

The feedback/ideas put forward are all excellent:

I fully support

- Deans idea for a Lonely Hearts Pen Pals (Hey Dean :) )
- Taryn-Michelle's idea of an ongoing comic strip, could we perhaps create a character to follow?
- Taryn-Michelle's idea for a "Dear Inside Out", especially if we can find LGBTIQ friendly professionals.
- Birthday Cards- great idea, especially for those (like myself) who have no outside support.

I am not sure if there was much feedback from my last letter, but I would be keen to see some honest, open, dialogue about the future of the work Miranda and Amanda have started, perhaps how we could make it better?

Some of my thoughts:

- Incorporation – to allow us to apply for government grants
- Patron
- Mission Statement
- Management/Advisory Committee
- Readership Committee
- Membership applications – to help collect data
- Permission to print letter statements and clauses
- Contact with Correction Services each statements

I will attempt to provide a little further information, but would welcome any questions or comments via Inside Out. I have been involved in several groups and have seen them grow with a little planning.

Incorporation: Consideration to applying for Incorporation as a not-for-profit organisation, state or federal level? Obtain a ABN. Have a bank account. Would allow for us to find an Honorary Solicitor etc. Apply for small equipment grants.

Patron: Once incorporated we could look for a patron, someone willing to put their name on our newsletter, letterhead etc.



Management/Advisory Committee: Set up a formal committee structure – which would be needed for incorporation, we could adopt the Model Rules and change overtime. Structure could be: President V- President, Secretary - Treasurer (could be same person), Community Member (1 or 2 ), Inmate Delegate (1 or 2). Would meet (do minutes for inmate delegate(s) every 2 months.

Member or Readership Committee: This would be a more practical, hands -on “running everyday” Committee, and could include: Editor, Sub-Editor, Typist, Proof Readers, Inmate Delegates (possibly 1 or 2 from each state)

Perhaps we could use other titles or need add or remove positions. Do we need two committees?

Membership Application: Consider creating membership forms to collect data (for statistics now or later down the track) such as state, age, sexual orientation etc: we could adopt the term member instead of readers? We could help offset costs by having membership levels:

- Inmates (free)
- Ex-Inmates/family/friends (\$5)
- Community Group/Government Departments (\$10.00)

Statements & Clauses: Consideration should be given to certain statements and clauses in the newsletter such as the current QCS one, copyright. As well as protection ones such as when someone writes in they state (give permission) to have their letter or article printed – this saves the team having to write back and ask all the time – saving time and money.

State Correction Departments: Once established, should we contact each State Department (Commissioner) and show what we do, aims etc. To try and get them onside. Perhaps arrange for all the newsletters for one state be send to one Centre and they are forwarded via the internal mail, saving postage.

Does each state have a LGBTIQ Staff ember that the Team (we) can liaise with should we need to?

Mission Statement: Should we look at having a Mission Statement? Which could better explain what we stand for, who we are?

Thank you for reading these comments, they are my thoughts/suggestions/ideas only. So please let us know

what you think. Perhaps others have other ideas, or think my ideas are silly? I realise this isn't a lengthy discussion paper, but as you can imagine, being inside and hand writing make it hard.

I wish everyone a most enjoyable Easter.

Sincerely,  
Troy Walker (NSW)



## A letter from Cameron

Hi Inside-out,

My name is Cameron Bloomfield I am 31 years old I am all most coming to the end of my sentence I have 6 months to go. I identify myself as a gay male with a disability a mate of mine told me about Inside-out and he encouraged me to write to Inside-out and think Inside-out will be good for the L.G.B.T.I.Q community in prison I encourage inmates who identify with a disability who is in the L.G.B.T.I.Q community to write to Inside-out and can write to me at Private Bag 4 Beaufort Vic 3373 Langi Kal Kal prison thank you for your time.

From Cameron Bloomfield. C.r.n 196124



Artwork by Lisa Autumn, USA  
Published in 2017 J22nd Zine



## A letter from Sean

Dear Miranda and the Inside Out members,

G'day my name is Sean and I'm 21 years old! Thank you guys and girls sooo much for letting me be apart of this magazine, I look forward to be reading your stories and for me to be sharing mine with you :)

As my first welcoming I'd like to share a song with you'se all that I wrote, I'm open for feedbacks as-well.

Thank you so much

With Love

Sean

Longbay C.C. (NSW)

© 2015 8x

### BRAVE AS HIM

(Written by Shawn James Gorman 2015)

INTRO: G, Cadd9, D7, G

VERSE 1:

G C  
Every Year at the crack of dawn  
D IN G  
We stand <sup>IN</sup> silence to the bugle call  
G C  
We remember those who went to war  
D G  
And how they taught us to stand proud  
and tall

VERSE 2:

G C  
Grandad told me how his father died  
D G  
In world war one under the blazing sun  
G C  
He gave his life for us and left a son  
D G  
Who grew up tall with his single mum

PRE-CHORUS:

Am Bm  
Now I sit alone in a cell,  
C D7  
Lord knows I've made mistakes

CHORUS:

G D C G  
Oh I, wish that I could be as brave as him  
D C G  
wish that I could be as brave as him  
Em D7 G  
wish that I could be as brave as him  
Em D7 G  
wish that I could be as brave as him

SOLO: G,C,D,G x2

VERSE 3:

G C  
Now I'm sittin here thinkin bout my  
release  
D G  
Wondering how I can keep the peace  
G C  
So I don't come back here to this place  
D G  
And put a smile on my grandad's face

CHORUS:

G D C G  
Oh I, wish that I could be as brave as him  
D C G  
wish that I could be as brave as him  
Em D7 G  
wish that I could be as brave as him  
Em D7 G  
wish that I could be as brave as him



No. 168

## Transgender Inmates

Jake Blight

*People who transgress the traditional boundaries of sex and gender pose a challenge for correctional systems. Transgender persons are those for whom sex (physical characteristics) and gender (self- and social-identity) is not always congruent. While there is currently only a small number of transgender inmates in the Australian prison system, these particular inmates are at substantially high risk of assault and/or self-harm. For this reason, it is important that there are appropriate policies and procedures in place for the management of transgender inmates.*

Adam Graycar  
Director

**T**his paper is a summary of a longer report on the issue of transgender persons and the Australian legal system (which is available on request). The longer report covers the following issues in more detail and explores the role of the common law, international obligations, and legal definitions of sex and gender.



## A letter from Taryn-Michelle

Hello :) I just thought I would send a quick letter to enclose to you a copy of a Journal Article from the Institute of Criminology about incarcerated transgender prisoners in Australia. You may already be aware of it, but if not it has some good topic points and includes information on all states and territories in Australia. It also has some noteworthy references in the bibliography as well.

Hope you like the Journal Article.

Cya! :)

Taryn-Michelle (WA)

*Editors note: Here is a small excerpt. If you would like a copy of the full article (6 pages) let us know and we will post it out to you.*



# Writing and Artwork from the Inside



## Just a Square

What happened to the good old days of many years ago, singing around a piano, songs like “Swanee” also “old black joe”?

Remember on a Saturday night, we’d have a few friends in?

“Come on... give us a tune!”

They’d say, and everyone would sing.

Nobody had good voices but everyone tried, And people were so happy, you felt so good inside then you’d shift all the chairs out, and give it all you’ve got, with your partner swinging round and round, doing the old fox trot.

You’d stop and have a beer or two and then a bite to eat, and talk of interesting things, while resting weary feet.

By Geoffrey Sylvester Hay  
Langi Kal Kal Prison (VIC)

There are many Pen and Paper games that can be played in jail, most require nothing more than rules, pen and paper (surprisingly) and quite a few others add a deck of cards.

Pen and Paper games range in complexity, from the grid game squares through to Dungeons and Dragons.

While all games appeal to me, I’m most partial to RPGs<sup>4</sup>. I find that they give me a way to express myself in a safe environment. I’ve played with a number of guys (mind out of the gutter) in jail, most of which played Male characters, but a few played females. Some played straight, some Gay (while I’m gay, I generally play straight characters) and one played a lesbian who is believed to be a man. I’ve found when people create a character they (sometimes subconsciously) base it off parts of themselves, whether it’s good, bad or hidden parts, it’s very revealing.

How people play/ use their characters is also very revealing and incredibly freeing. Using your imagination and immersing yourself in another world makes not only time go quickly while playing, but gives you something to think and talk about when not playing.

Being someone or something else is fun and freeing and can sometimes teach you things about yourself you weren’t aware of.

If you want to learn how to play any Pen and Paper games, see if your library has any books on games, see if your librarians can find some rules, if welfare/ support workers can find rules for you, if family/ friends on the outside can send rules for you, ask other inmates in your wing/unit/pod/ yard, of any they can share with you.

Remember to love yourself  
Lament

1)Thirianism: the belief that you have a connection to Animals/ an animal species, that is equal to or stronger than your identification as human.

2) Otaku: Japanese Nerd (Basically, but not really)

3) I don’t really like spelling it as goal

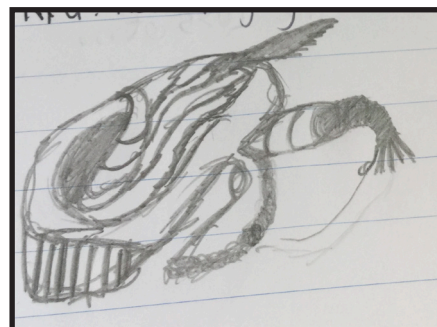
4) RPG = Role Playing Game.



## No need to Lament the loss of...

No need to lament the loss of Video Games, I’m quite proud to call myself a number of things, Gay, Thirian<sup>1</sup>, Kiwi, but most of all, I’m a Geek/ Nerd/Otaku<sup>2</sup>. Jail<sup>3</sup> (at least Remand/ Maximums in NSW) is a Desert of nerdy things. Books are hard to come by, library access even more so. TV is a sporadic fulfilment (If your cellmate doesn’t mind) and the only games are chess or 41, a far cry from Starcraft and Call of Duty.

But don’t despair, while Video games aren’t available their original forms are. Pen and Paper games! :)





## Don't Make Bisexuality invisible

Far too many people have told me “There is no such thing as a bisexual person” and I’m now frustrated and over it. “You’re either straight or you’re gay” is a neanderthal - like statement which should be left in the dark ages and has no place in current society. Our broad-ranged status in the ‘LGBTIQ’ acronym gives identity and place within our LGBTIQ community and should not be minimalised for anyone’s opinion.

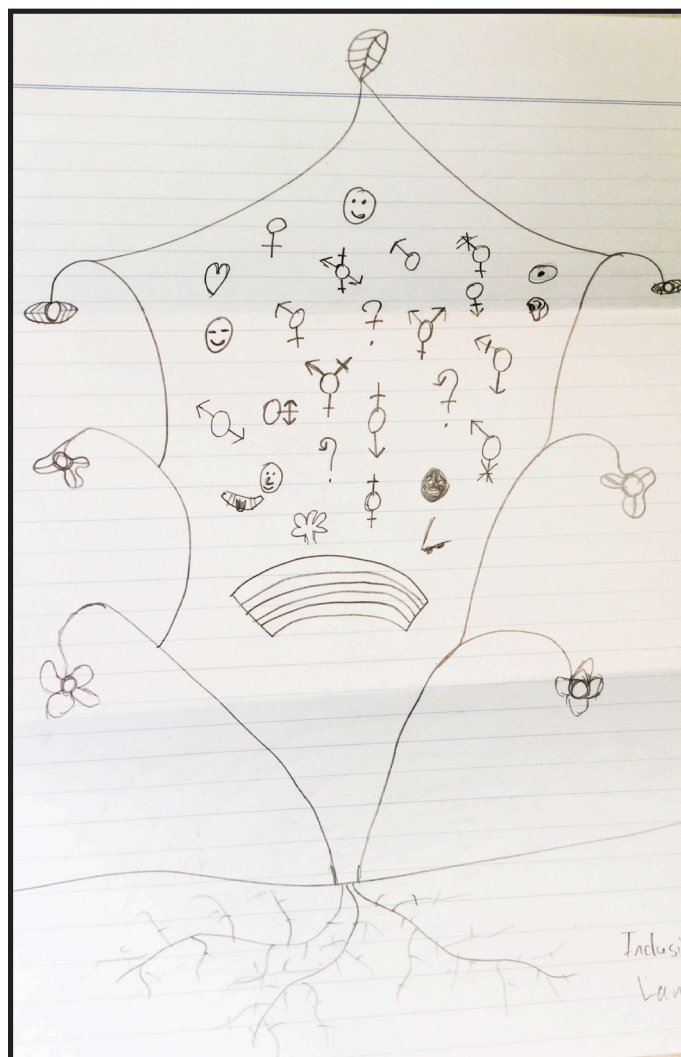
From reading my past submissions to the Inside Out newsletters you will notice that I am not a person who goes on a rant and rave but aims to help and assist those of our LGBTIQ community in-need before, during and after their experience of prison. Maybe because I am so protective of my own bisexuality, could I be biased? I think not. I will happily stand up for all those out there who identify as bisexual.

Apart from this type of attitude causing frustration and confusion, making assumptions about people’s sexuality can cause harm and lowers the tolerance of our LGBTIQ community. Both bisexual men and women are more likely to suffer poor mental health as a result of low self-esteem and self-worth, being made to believe they have been living their lives as a lie by others who are not fit to judge or assess. What it all boils down to is that we are being bullied!

Whether it comes from someone you have known for a long time or short, they do not have the right to tell you what you ‘should’ or ‘shouldn’t’ be. While people’s tastes might be different, their needs are the same and the decision is yours to determine who you are in this world. Don’t make bisexuality invisible...

“It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.” - E.E Cummings

Paul West (VIC)



*Inclusion. Full Bloom.  
Artwork by Lament (NSW)*



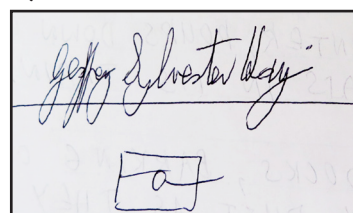
## Mateship

There’s a fine and dandy custom,  
And I’m with it all the way,  
It’s great Australian mateship  
I encounter each day.

Not a thing on earth can beat it  
Nothing else can quite compare  
With the sense of loyal mateship  
That’s Australia’s special ware.

It embodies love and friendship  
Yes indeed... But something more  
It’s a creed for worthy living  
And it opens each and every door.

Geoffery Sylvester Hay







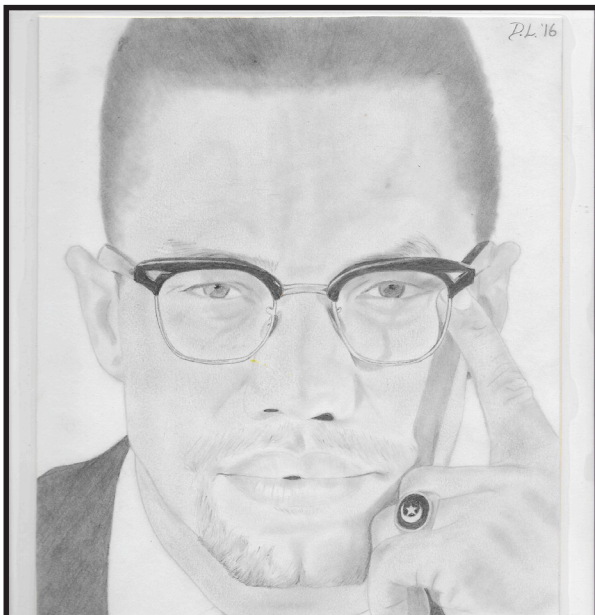
## If these walls could speak

If these walls could speak  
 They would speak of Hatred  
     But why?  
 If these walls could speak  
 They would speak of Violence  
     But why?  
 If these walls could speak  
 They would speak of fear  
     But why?  
 If these walls could speak  
 They would speak of Suicide  
     But why?  
 Its because I'm in a prison system that doesn't care  
     But I know  
 When these walls speak Hate  
 We should speak of Love  
     Amen  
 When these walls speak Violence  
 We should speak of acceptance  
     Amen  
 When these walls speak fear  
 We should speak of Bravery  
     Amen  
 When these walls speak Suicide  
 We should speak of counselling

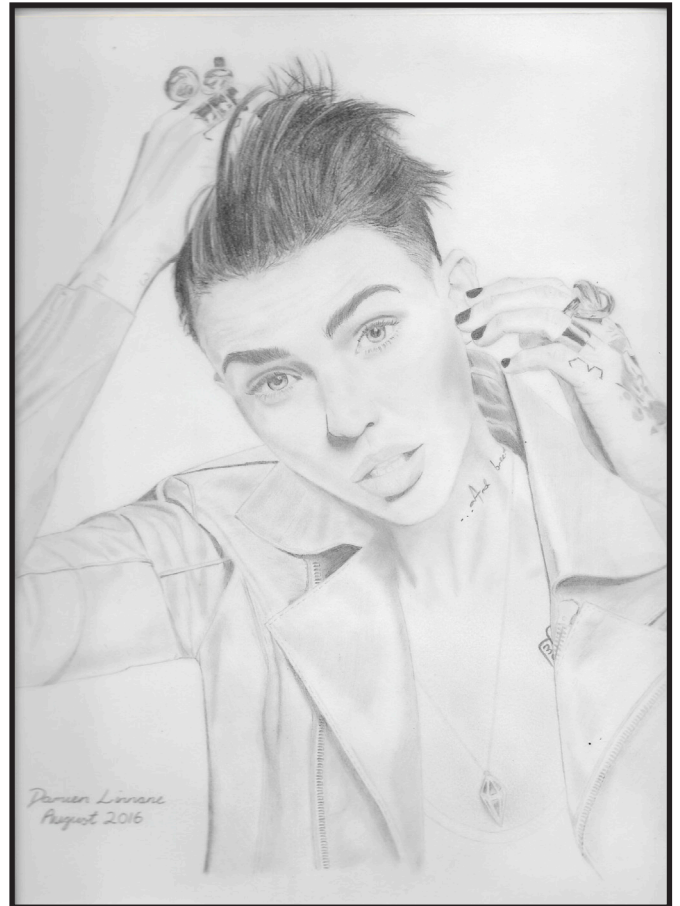
Our Love is equal  
 So our rights should be too!

Be Yourself  
 Be Proud  
 Be hopeful

By Dean Bell  
 528859, SCCC Nowra (NSW)



Artwork by Damien Linnane



Artwork by Damien Linnane



## Comradeship

A while ago the darkness seemed  
 To be all crowded with creatures  
 Of my fright;  
 A foolish whim which somehow clung  
 To me from earliest childhood; Every  
 Brooding night was filled with  
 Loneliness and mystery,  
 And every windblown tree and shadow  
 Sprite greeted my passing with a  
 Cruel delight.  
 But now, since you have gone, old man,  
 I ride companioned; when, and how  
 So ever I go, you seem to travel  
 Ever by my side.  
 And all the voices of the bush that  
 Blow across my path, and all the  
 Smiles that hid in mountain streams  
 That gurgle as they flow -  
 These bring you back - I wonder if  
 You know!

By Geoffrey Sylvester Hay  
 (Black -Brother Boy.)  
 Hopkins Correctional Centre



## Kymberlie's Journey To Empowerment

*Editor Note: Content warning Family Violence & Suicide Attempt*

I'd always known I wasn't a normal boy. Overall I felt wrong and confused.

I grew up in outback N.S.W, isolated, with my mother and father, no siblings or relatives. My father a control freak and my mother submitted to his dominance. I got no understanding from either of them.

I later found our isolated lifestyle was intentional; my father keeping my family estranged from relatives, enforcing his dominance over us. My parents fought constantly and my mother and I suffered horrendous physiological and physical abuse.

As a tubby, awkward kid bullied relentlessly at school, I didn't make friends easily. I befriended girls and found I related and felt accepted by them. I would play dress-ups, dolls and have tea parties. I was young, I didn't understand this play was "unnatural" for boys. By fifteen, I'd worked in my spare time in a fish and chip shop, delivered junk mail and attended at a service station. This financial improvement introduced smoking, drinking and drug abuse. Self-medicating was an effective "mask" to escape life and the unwanted and incorrect onset of puberty.

I'd several girlfriends in high school, most never lasting as I became too needy. I soon realised I was acting out the female role in the relationship. This realisation heightened confusion and I spiralled into depression to a point where I considered suicide.

I experimented with my sexuality in high school, having female and male partners. I started cross-dressing in my mothers lingerie in secret when home alone. This behaviour continued into adult life as I found myself choosing voluptuous partners to fit into their clothes.

I started a long-standing relationship with a girl I met in high school. We had a daughter together, eventually moving to S.A. Unfortunately we parted ways although continues to be supportive to this day, even after disclosing my transgenderism. I sought rehab and after completion found myself on the streets of Adelaide.

I got my act together, moved into a unit and

attempted to set my life back on track. It's here my first understanding of transgender identity evolved; as GENDER DYSPHORIA was discussed on TV and suddenly pieces clicked into place. I reached out to like-minded individuals where I found other transgender people who showed me guidance and support.

Over time I entered into other relationships (one I went on to have more children with) that eventually dwindled away, moved in with another transgender woman who taught me more about gender dysphoria.

I gained knowledge to begin living full-time as a woman and saw a doctor and psychologist to ease transition. Unfortunately I returned to Broken Hill for a time to care for my ill father who soon treated me no better than before. Relationships were not easy to maintain. I found myself deeply depressed and reconsidering suicide, this time actually slashing my wrist. Immediate regret followed and in my last ditch to save myself called for an ambulance. Consequently, I spent time in hospital and underwent psych consults.

In 2011, I was introduced to the justice system and took my place in prison. It's the first time I've been in serious trouble with authorities. I went deeper into a denial of my identity and sexuality for fear or being bashed or raped should anyone have found out. I was "under the radar" for most of my sentence.

The turning point in identifying as transgender was the last part of my sentence after my father died. It was a weight lifted and judgement was no longer a concern/ I approached prison staff about my identity and sexuality for what it really was and requested it to be on record so my new circumstances could be dealt with and I could embrace and accept my femininity.





Parole was granted early 2016 and I resumed transition with the view of finally completing it. Due to financial hardship I was unable to maintain accommodation, breached and returned to prison. When I returned to custody I was a week away from starting HRT and haven't been able to access it in prison.

In summary, despite lack of support, don't let it stop you from being who you really are. It's a long and lonely journey denying yourself, hiding and masking like I did and you will without a doubt end up doing your time a lot harder than you need to. Be true to yourself, and who care what anyone else thinks.

My name is Kymberlie, and I'm proudly  
GENDER DIVERSE.



Artwork by Lisa Autumn, USA  
Published in 2017 J22nd Zine

## Dear Inside Out

*Editor's Note: As suggested in the last newsletter, we have started a new section called "Dear Inside Out." You can write in with your questions to be answered by other readers or request a response from a professional such as a doctor or lawyer.*

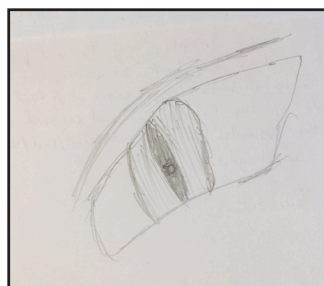
Dear Inside Out,

I am an incarcerated transgender prisoner in Western Australia. I have been in the system for nigh on six years now. In that time I have noticed an ignorance towards the LGBTIQ community with one exception: condom dispensers in the gymnasium. An enquiry told me they were there to prevent the spread of STDs, Hepatitis and HIV. When I commented on how progressive the jail was I was told "oh there aren't any gay people here, we just have to provide it to comply with the law." I was quite confused since I have gay friends. I later learned from Peer Support that the prison is often described as being highly homophobic. Really, in this enlightened era of human development?

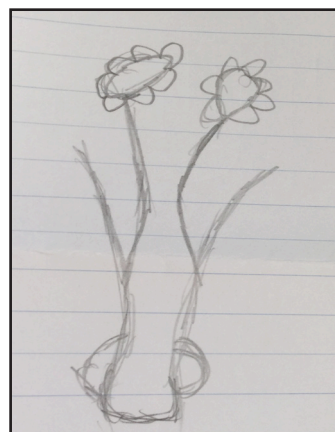
I read in your last issue a piece on page 10 written by Paul West (VIC) that some prisons may have LGBTIQ Support Groups. I would like to know more about those, as I believe that an LGBTIQ Support Group here would be a very good way to combat the 'homophobic' attitude and to dispel many misunderstandings that people may have so as to promote a more supportive and understanding environment. Which would go a long way to assisting in decreasing the recidivism rate on many crimes as well. So far I have met some very nice people who identify as gay, intersex and like myself, transgender who feel very isolated. By the way, they love the newsletter too :)

In solidarity,

Tayrn- Michelle (WA)



Artwork by  
Lament, NSW



## Update - 2017 International Day of Trans Prisoner Solidarity and Action

*January 22nd was the 2nd annual International Trans Prisoner Day. Events happened in cities and towns around the world. The 2017 J22nd zine was released, with writing and artwork from trans and gender diverse prisoners, including some Inside Out readers! If you would like to receive a copy, just let us know.*

*Inside Out asked Marius Mason about why he started the J22 Day of Solidarity. Marius is a trans man who is currently serving a 22 year sentence in Texas, USA.*

Why did I ask friends to help initiate a Day of Support for Trans Prisoners? What is the purpose of J22? The original idea for a Trans Prisoner Day of Solidarity came to me as I was reading so many personal stories of harassment, isolation and suffering, especially about the experience of so many trans women of colour who endured assault and rape without support or protection. I know that it has been the support of comrades on the outside, their willingness to advocate with me and for me - that has helped me get through the worst days in prison. I feel incredibly fortunate to have this network of friends, family and movement activists in my corner as I navigate through years of bureaucratic process. Without this community, I would have felt overwhelmed and outnumbered. Certainly I would not have known my legal rights or known what medical standards recommend for trans health care... So I hoped that the Trans Prisoner Day of Support would share these connections and considerable and important resources with other prisoners, to make sure that no trans prisoner need to suffer alone without care and encouragement. I'm really thankful to all the friends and comrades who made this dream of solidarity a reality. And it works both ways, as the movement to evolve society is also benefited by the talent that comes through inclusion. We need all of us to change the world for the better.

My first answer speaks a bit to my motivation for this event, that I felt it to be timely and important to focus on support for trans prisoners, as so many were in serious physical danger. But in particular, I felt like Ms CeCe McDonald's spirited words inspired me to be more outspoken about what happens to trans people in the prison system. She is an amazing, intelligent, and courageous woman who was treated with such ignorance and disrespect by the incarceration system that desperately needs to be educated and (until it can be ultimately dismantled) made to respond to all

prisoners' needs for quality healthcare. Ms McDonald's example made me want to contribute more to this important issue... not just for my own case, but for all of us.

So far I've been pleased with how the event came off. I had a chance to read the 2016 zine and was proud to have read how so many trans prisoners are fighting to make space in the world for themselves. It was great to get to celebrate trans lives and to acknowledge important victories together, as well as offer support to each other in the face of discrimination. Having support on the outside is so necessary for getting through prison with your sense of self intact. Thank you so much everyone who wrote a card or a letter, sent a book or made a phone call on behalf of a trans prisoner. Your solidarity matters!

What was really encouraging to me was the energy that this event created, causing some local groups to create radio shows and groups that connected outside LGBT groups with prisoner support groups. I'm excited to see what happens next!

While I have technically won my request to transition during my time in the B.O.P (Bureau of Prisons) system - I'm not out of the woods yet. Even after getting my permission from the Central Office (at a national level), there has been a delay on the local level. So far that's meant additional, repetitive blood test and additional gynaecological exams... and though I have been told by medical staff that I'd be given a binder, it has yet to be issued. So I am still waiting for my shots to begin, and while I remain hopeful that Carswell Prison will comply with the national order... I may still need some help with this. Please stay with me on this, as policy is still getting developed for trans health care. If we advocate for an accessible and transparent protocol for access to necessary health care in prison that will help so many attain a better quality of life. There's a long way to go after that, as prisons themselves are not the solution to society's problems. But until all are free, we need to work together as comrades on both sides of the walls.

Love and Solidarity,  
Marius.

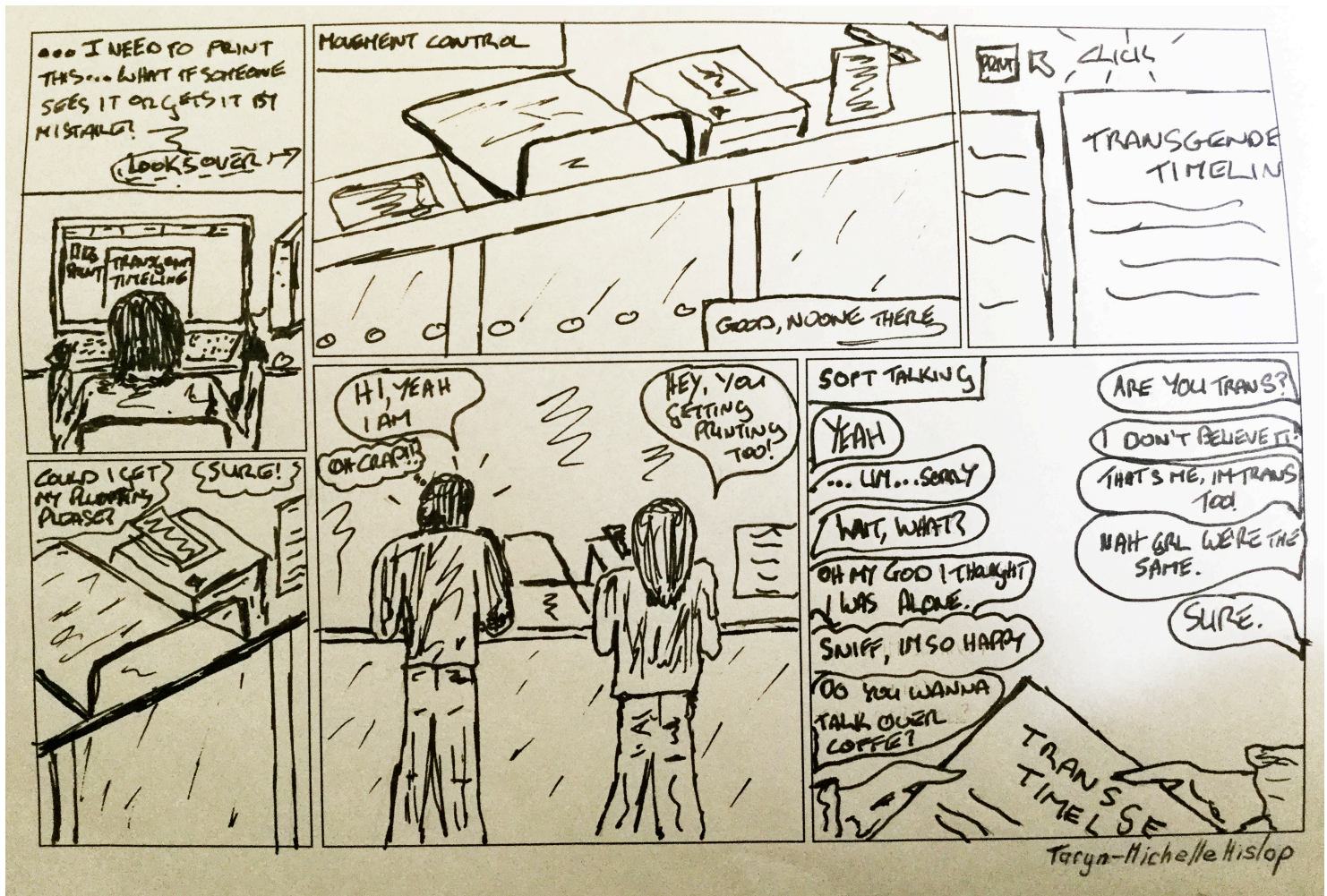




# Comic Strip

Thanks to Taryn-Michelle's suggestion to have a regular comic strip section in Inside Out. Here is the first one. Everyone is welcome to send in a comic strip for future editions.

## Unexpected Encounter



This is my first Comic Strip panel and is a depiction of my encounter with another transgender prisoner who I had little interaction with. In fact a lot of people think he is gay. Which highlights a common misconception about people who identify as transgender - Taryn- Michelle.

## Inside Out Newsletter Feedback Form

Name (optional): .....

What did you like about the newsletter? .....

Anything you didn't like or think could be different?.....

# More about Inside Out

## Who is this newsletter for?



Inside Out is primarily for people who are or have been incarcerated. This includes prison, juvenile detention centres and immigration detention (on-shore and off-shore detention). It is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, sistergirl, brotherboy, 2spirit, takatapui, fafafine, asexual and many other diverse gender and sexual identities. You don't have to identify as one of these to receive the newsletter. You might be curious or questioning your gender or sexuality. You might just support the LGBTIQ+ community. You might have loved ones who identify as gender or sexually diverse. This is an inclusive newsletter! Going on our mailing list doesn't mean having to identify in any particular way. The newsletter will also be available to those in the community on the outside. However, the focus is in providing a voice for, and giving access to information to people in prison or those who have experienced incarceration.

Email: [info@insideoutaustralia.org](mailto:info@insideoutaustralia.org)  
Website: [www.insideoutaustralia.org](http://www.insideoutaustralia.org)

## What do you want Inside Out to be?

We want Inside Out to be first and foremost lead by prisoners. If you have ideas about what the newsletter should include or ideas about what the Inside Out network should be, we would love to hear from you. Please let us know if you want us to publish your ideas so that we can create a discussion and build this project together.

Right now the newsletter is the main focus of the group. However, as we build more capacity we might be able to take on other projects. Please be aware that Inside Out does not currently have the capacity to provide support in terms of individual advocacy, legal advice, financial support or counselling. However the newsletter will always include a resource list outlining services in your state that can help with these matters.

## Go on the mailing list

Let us know if you are not already on our mailing list and you want to receive this free newsletter. Or if you know anyone else who wants to. We will send you out a new edition every 3 months.

## Contribute your artwork or writing

If you want to have your writing, articles, poetry, letters or artwork featured in the next edition of the newsletter, please send it to us at:

Inside Out  
Po Box 2446  
Footscray  
Vic, 3011



## Feedback Form continued

What else would you like to see in the newsletter? .....

.....

Any other comments/ feedback? .....

.....

Please add my friend to the mailing list.....

☐ I would like to be on the Birthday Card list. My birthday is .....

☐ I'd like to receive the newsletter.  
My address is .....

.....  
.....

☐ I'm being released on this date:.....and I would like to keep receiving the newsletter after that. My post-release address: .....

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