

Comparison between Intersex Conditions and Transsexualism

This documents seeks to clarify the confusion surrounding the differences between intersex conditions and transsexualism. Please contact the AIS Support Group Australia on aissg@iprimus.com.au if you would like more information.

Intersex	Transsexualism
One of the many long-established biological conditions where a child is born with reproductive organs, genitalia and/or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female.	A condition where people are born with a completely male or female sexual reproductive organs and sex chromosomes , but with a gender identity of the opposite sex.
The previous word for intersex is hermaphrodite.	Transsexualism is also referred to as gender dysphoria' or ' gender identity disorder '.
Medically determined by simple diagnostic tests.	Self-identified condition
Approx 5 to 10% of people with intersex conditions have some question about their gender identity, usually as a result of earlier inappropriate medical treatment.	People with transsexualism reject their chromosomal and reproductive sex as a result of having a gender identity of the opposite sex.

Intersex	Transsexualism
People with intersex conditions are preliminarily assigned a sex of rearing at birth if there is an obvious ambiguity as to the child's sex. A decision is made for them. Others with intersex conditions are diagnosed later when they fail to menstruate etc.	People with transsexualism are raised in the sex that matches their unambiguous reproductive sex.
People with intersex conditions cannot reproduce without medical intervention except in very rare circumstances. Most are sterile.	Most people with transsexualism are able to reproduce naturally. (Many do prior to rejecting their birth sex).
Children and infants with intersex conditions endure repeated examinations and medical procedures including orchidectomies, vaginoplasties and hormone treatment without their consent. A standard of care does not exist, but treatment is generally based on invalidated research from the 1960s.	People with transsexualism receive treatment under internationally approved Standards of Care and give full disclosure and consent to any medical intervention. Care is specifically taken to ensure mistakes are not made.

Intersex	Transsexualism
Long established biological condition.	History of being a psychological condition, with "brain sex" still an unproven theory.
Main issues of concern for intersex groups are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humane treatment of children with intersex conditions, • Support for parents, • Accurate and timely diagnosis, • Access to appropriate medical specialists, • Infertility, • Osteoporosis, and • Management of hormone imbalances. <p>Note: People with intersex conditions have always been able to have their birth certificates corrected if raised in the wrong sex. They can also marry and adopt children.</p>	Main issues of concern for transsexual groups are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal status of their self-identified gender, • Relationship recognition, • Transitioning issues, • Access to sex reassignment surgeries, • Employment and • Discrimination.

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