

## 'Sex files' report puts Australia at the forefront of human rights, says

Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH

"The report launched by the Australian Human Rights Commission on the legal recognition of sex and gender in documents and government records is a long overdue review of human rights inequality for sex and gender diverse people in Australia," says leading trans activist, clinician and researcher Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH from lobby group Sex And Gender Education (SAGE). Tracie was instrumental in getting Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes to meet with SAGE and to then consult with the broader sex and gender diverse community, culminating in this report. "Now it is up to the federal government to act on these groundbreaking recommendations," she says.

Dr Tracie O'Keefe DCH is a psychotherapist, counsellor and sexologist specialising in sex and gender identity issues. Originally from London, she is a trans woman who transitioned over 35 years ago and now runs the Australian Health & Education Centre in Sydney. She is the spokesperson for lobby group Sex And Gender Education (SAGE) and the author and editor of several books on sex and gender diversity, including *Trans-X-U-All: The Naked Difference* (1997); *Sex, Gender & Sexuality: 21st Century Transformations* (1999); *Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex and Gender Diversity* (2003) and the latest *Trans People in Love* (Routledge 2008/2009). More info at [www.tracieokeefe.com](http://www.tracieokeefe.com)

## Alzheimer's Australia launches inspiring competition to highlight impact of dementia

Alzheimer's Australia today announced the launch of the Making Memories Patchwork Quilt Competition, a national initiative to raise public awareness of dementia in Australia and celebrate the importance of making memories.

Glenn Rees, National Executive Director of Alzheimer's Australia, explained that the aim of the initiative is to help educate the public about the impact dementia has on a person's everyday life and the importance of preserving precious memories.

"Our memories define our lives. They help us learn, grow and connect us to our loved ones. However when people develop dementia, their memory can fade, having a devastating effect on them and their loved ones," said Mr Rees.

"Through this initiative we hope to bring together and celebrate precious memories from all over Australia so that we can create a quilt full of memories that are unique in their nature, but unified in their message."

Across Australia, it is estimated that there are currently 234,640 people living with dementia[1] and nearly one million Australians involved in the care of someone with dementia.[2]

The Making Memories Patchwork Quilt Competition is open for entries until 25 May 2009. To enter, people need to create one quilting block (patch material) that represents a special memory. A panel of judges will decide on 63 entries that will create the Making Memories Patchwork Quilt. In addition, those entries judged to be first, second and third will receive craft voucher prizes.

Mr Rees said that Alzheimer's Australia is hoping to



receive entries from a wide variety of people living in different geographic locations and sharing different cultural backgrounds, helping to spread the message about dementia far and wide.

"We are aiming to receive hundreds of entries from all over the country and in doing so we hope to raise awareness about dementia including ways to help reduce the risk of dementia," said Mr Rees. "Alzheimer's Australia has developed the 'Mind your Mind' program which identifies seven factors for a brain healthy lifestyle to help reduce the risk of dementia. For more information visit: [www.alzheimers.org.au](http://www.alzheimers.org.au)."

The Making Memories Patchwork Quilt Competition materials, including an entry form, are available on the Alzheimer's Australia website: [www.alzheimers.org.au/makingmemories](http://www.alzheimers.org.au/makingmemories).

[1] *Access Economics (2005) Dementia estimates and projections: Australian States and Territories, Alzheimer's Australia, Canberra*

[2] <http://www.healthreport.com.au/Reports/6.pdf>

# From the annual charity day of the Antissian Association of NSW

25 members of the Antissian Association of NSW attended our annual charity day. This year, we raised \$3,000.00 and on the day of giving the donation we also attended a 'working bee', meaning we did jobs around the house such as painting, cleaning gutters, cleaning the play areas, cleaning the fridges, cleaning windows and other odd jobs that needed doing.

The Macquarie Group Foundation will be matching our \$3,000.00 donation dollar for dollar, making our overall contribution \$6,000.00 to the 'family food fund' of the house, providing much added relief to rural families who are far away from home and attending to their kids health.

The Ronald McDonald House provides accommodation for country families whose children are being treated at the Sydney Children's Hospital for illnesses such as leukaemia, cancer, other accident related injuries and bone marrow transplants.

Thank you to all our volunteers for giving up their valuable time and I look forward to seeing you all at our next charity day.



Antissian Association of Sydney and NSW  
John Loukadellis  
PO BOX 488  
MAARICKVILLE NSW 20204

Dear John,

Donation of \$3000 & Working Bee.

I am writing on behalf of all of our families here at Ronald McDonald House, to express our most sincere thanks to you, for your kind donation of \$3000 and the hard work undertaken throughout the 'working bee' by your team of 25 members of the Antissian Association of Sydney & NSW.

As you know we provide accommodation for country families whose children are being treated at Sydney Children's Hospital, most of the families are under considerable stress so your support and kindness is very much appreciated.

On behalf of the Board of Management, but also of the families residing at Ronald McDonald House Randwick, I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to you and to Antissian Association of Sydney & NSW for the very kind and considerate gesture.

Once again, thank you for your support!

Yours sincerely  
Michelle McIntosh  
House Manager

14 March 2009

**Reminder:** Saturday 2nd May 2009 is the date of the Antissian Association of NSW 30th Anniversary in Australia and Mothers Day Dance at the Cyprus Club in Stanmore. The dance will start at 7pm and costs \$35.00 per person - all children under 12yrs old get in for free.



**RIGHT: The President of the Antissian Association of NSW handing over the donation to the house manager and (TOP) a picture of the group of volunteers that attended the Ronald McDonald House @ Randwick. LEFT: Letter of appreciation**

