

Dear Madam/Sir & significant Others,

You do not yet know much about me and I think it only fair to bring you up to speed. You may have read about my plight in the West Australian newspaper 11/01/2003.

I am writing to draw your attention to and ask for a minor change to be made to the Western Australian Electoral Commission enrolment forms.

I have been in continuous contact with WAEC since early July last year and, was referred by them to communicate directly with Sue Sayer AEC, A.C.T. I have since been referred by Sue this year, back to the WAEC, which now recommends that I approach you for resolution of this issue.

I have a birth certificate & passport stating that my physiology is not female or male and therefore, not catered for by legislative inclusion in the current workings of the various Australian Electoral Commissions. In order for many xxy persons to participate in any elections, we have no option but to commit fraud, by claiming to be either female or male, in order to vote. Democratically speaking, there needs to be some provision made for we who are neither female or male through no fault of our own, to be included in Australian legislation. A conservative estimate of our xxy number is approx. 1% of the existing Australian population. We exist nationally! The current electoral voting form selectively excludes all who cannot be defined as female or male and denies us the right to vote.

What I propose to rectify this situation is the provision of a "third Box," with the title of "Other."

Female; Male; Other;

This will cater for all of us who cannot otherwise be identified as either female or male, yet includes us in all future elections and, will ultimately deliver a greater understanding to the types of needs that any particular community may require, simply by the provision of a third box on the enrolment form.

This addition will accommodate we who currently cannot physically, legally or socially be identified as either female or male, who would otherwise remain invisible, myself inclusive and, denied our legal right to vote. We do not experience the same privileges the traditional sexes enjoy.

I am aware that, what the DFAT arm of the Australian Govt. has achieved is a major task in it's undertaking and, the first of it's kind in the world. The adaptation for the programmable software necessary to accommodate our additional gender/s for machine readable passports and, up-dating their associated links, yours inclusive. This unheralded feat appears to have slipped quietly into the social order relatively unnoticed. I am sure the AEC will follow the lead DFAT has presented and address this as seriously.

Thankyou for the attention you have given to this issue. Sincerely,
Alex.

*IFAS [The International Foundation for Androgynous Studies, inc.] PO
BOX 1066 Nedlands, Western Australia 6909 Co-Director, Felicity Haynes

The overall purpose of human communication, is reconciliation... Scott
Peck

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47_X-X-Y intersex:
> I
46_X-X female sex:
> I
46_X-Y male sex:

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**Stamp of recognition:** Alex MacFarlane, 48, who has a form of androgyny shared by about one in every 3500-2000 people at birth, with the first passport that denotes sex with an X, for intersex, in Australia. Photo issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**Trailblazer:** The report in *The West Australian* showing Alex MacFarlane, 48, with the passport that denotes the sex section with an X.

## Recognise intersex people

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Julie Butler for the story about Alex and the passport for an intersex person and to Alex MacFarlane for persisting in the pursuit of public identification as intersex (11/1).

Alex was an executive member of the International Foundation for Androgynous Studies, located in Perth.

IFAS was established in 1998 to help those who do not fit easily

into male or female stereotypes. WA is leading the world in gay and lesbian reform but more needs to be done legally and politically for the public recognition of intersex persons, conservatively estimated to constitute one per cent of the population.

**DR FELICITY HAYNES,**  
Co-Director, International  
Foundation for Androgynous  
Studies (IFAS), Nedlands.