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**WELCOME TO OUR ILGA OCEANIA WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE**

**– IOWNU No 10 –**

**ENDING 29th SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Australia – Tasmania – Hobart:**

**Saturday 23 September 2017**

**Abbott political tactic a low blow in same-sex marriage debate**

IT is shameful that former prime minister Tony Abbott was allegedly assaulted in Hobart by an alleged “yes” voter in the same-sex marriage plebiscite. If it is true that Mr Abbott was the victim of a hate crime, and that has yet to be properly established, it is deplorable and indefensible. and that has yet to be properly established, it is deplorable and indefensible.

No one should be subject to such infantile verbal and physical abuse. No one After the alleged assault, Mr Abbott said: “The love is love brigade aren’t showing a lot of love” . and the “ugliness” and “intolerance” is coming from “those who tell us, in the name of decency and fair-mindedness and freedom, we’ve got to allow same-sex marriage”.

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## **New Zealand – Auckland**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

### **RainbowYOUTH Introduces New Executive Director Frances Arns**

The Executive Board at RainbowYOUTH announced today the appointment of Frances Arns as the new Executive Director of RainbowYOUTH. She will replace outgoing Executive Director Duncan Matthews who leaves the role after four years.

“We’re excited to have Francis joining the RainbowYOUTH whānau,” says Sophie Sills, RainbowYOUTH Board Co-chairperson. “Over the last few years, we’ve really focused on strengthening our work in regional areas, developing a valued and recognisable brand presence and growing the capacity of RY in terms of what we can return to the queer and gender diverse community. We’re looking forward to continuing this momentum with the leadership of Frances, who will bring a fresh perspective, experience in governance, finance and strategic planning”.

## **Australia – Wagga Wagga**

**Tuesday 26th September 2017**

### **Transgender medical knowledge among regional doctors in short supply**

When Holly Conroy first tried to transition from male to female 11 years ago she was talked out of it by family and friends.

"People told me I'd never pull it off as a woman, that I'd never hold down a job, and I can remember my mum saying that if I was ever going to come around I'd have to call first in case they had visitors," Ms Conroy said.

Frustratingly for Ms Conroy though, she had a hard time finding the medical services she needed in her hometown of Wagga Wagga in south-west New South Wales.

"When I went to see the doctors here in Wagga they basically shrugged their shoulders and put it in the too-hard basket," she said. Regional doctors must refresh skills.

Bastian Seidel, president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, is also concerned about the knowledge gaps that rural and regional doctors are demonstrating with regard to transgender medicine — especially given the increasing demand for it.

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We're concerned about this because we want all patients to feel comfortable when they're seeing their GP," the Tasmanian-based Mr Seidel said.

"Discrimination is just not acceptable in the 21st century."

He said doctors who do not feel confident administering transgender medicine need to take advantage of the extensive array of resources available to them.

"Transgender medicine should be mainstream," he said.

"Transgender patients don't want to be outsourced to a specialist who may not even live in the same area they're living in."

### **Pacific – Tonga, Nuku'alofa**

**27 September 2017**

Capacity Building for Key Affected Populations (TG/MSM) at Loumaile Lodge from 9am. Please drop by, register at the door and participate in this important initiative. HIV Testing and Counselling also available on site. This initiative is funded by the Global Fund and UNDP.

### **New Zealand – Auckland**

**Thursday, 28th September 2017**

**Same-sex marriage a booming business in New Zealand as Australians travel to get hitched.**

On their 10th anniversary this year, the couple decided it was time. First though, they had to find a wedding venue that was gay-friendly. "One actually had us as a season, so it was like summer weddings, winter weddings, autumn weddings, spring weddings, same-sex weddings," Ms Black laughed. She spoke to a range of venues, but was nervous about how they would be received.

"I got freaked out and I thought I should ask, maybe I should make sure they know, but no one's been bothered, no one cares," Ms Black shrugged.

New Zealand's Parliament voted to legalise same-sex marriage in April 2013 and it came into force four months later in August.

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New Zealand and Australia have been known to be the more laid back, the more progressive, the more accepting communities, and for Australia to be just thinking about it and not actually actioning it, it's kind of sad," Ms Black added.

## **Pacific – Fiji – Suva**

**Friday 29th September 2017**

**Side Event: Telling our Stories - Socio-economic impacts of violence & discrimination against Pacific LBT Women, and gender non-conforming people, and Strategies for Change.**

NOVOTEL Lami on Tuesday 03/10 between 1:30pm-3:30pm in Meeting Room A (Novotel House)

Propositions for Transformative Financing of Women's Human Rights in the Pacific Women's economic empowerment (WEE) requires change across multiple domains: within communities and institutions; in markets and value chains; and in the wider political and legal environment. Women's individual and collective women's voices must also be recognised and institutionalised as influential actors on economic policies, and within economic and financial institutions, including workplaces. Rights and governance frameworks must ensure all women are able to fully exercise their rights. As such, economic empowerment is indivisible from a discussion of women's economic rights. Further, we must understand the best mechanisms for funding and engagement of women's human rights organisations as key institutions in the fight for gender equality, including women's economic empowerment and rights, in the Pacific.

The primary objective of this panel is to look at the how, not just what is funded in support of women's human rights in the Pacific. The dialogue intends to feed into the donor roundtable as part of the sixth Ministers meeting for women by highlighting the structural barriers for individual and organisational women's economic empowerment and rights.

### **Editor's Note:**

**That's all for this week.**

If you have any queries that we might be able to assist you with please contact me on [kenmoala@hotmail.com](mailto:kenmoala@hotmail.com) or the following people:

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Its Springtime, so get out into the fresh air and smell the roses, or the frangipani, or the wattle.

la manuia,

**Ken Moala**

**Communications Convenor**



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