

Impact Report

January – December 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live, work and organise. We pay our respects to elders past and present.

This land was stolen and sovereignty was never ceded. We also pay our respects to the Sistergirl and Brotherboy communities across this continent.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.



Contents

- Letter from the Director
- Our mission
- What we have achieved together
- Media
- Thank you



Letter from the Director

Jackie Turner She/Her

Hi friends,

It has been an incredible year.

We held the Trans Justice Strategy Retreat, we won campaigns to oppose the flawed Cass Review, we stopped Kellie-Jay Keen from hosting a second Australian visit, and released a powerful new resource to combat disinformation.

On top of all this we also expanded our team, hiring two more staff members to bring us up to four part-time staff, and helped to launch our first local group events.

I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished. We started less than two years ago and have already had a profound impact on the movement for trans justice in Australia.

Our small, strategic team is punching well above our weight. Our four part time staff add up to only 2.2 full time equivalence, making us far less resourced than many other organisations that operate on a national scale.

I want to thank everyone who has gotten involved, supported our work, shared it with their friends and family, and led or joined local groups.

Thanks as well to our board, staff, volunteers, funders, and all the people who have hosted fundraisers for us, booked workshops, provided pro-bono support, or chipped in to help support this work - especially our monthly donors.

None of us do this work alone - so thank you for doing what you can to build this movement.

We all know that the year ahead will be challenging for our community.

Trump's election in the US, the increasing influence of anti-trans disinformation, and emboldened fascist and far-right movements are a threat not only to the trans community but to all who want a more peaceful, safe, and equal world.

These global political trends will have a huge impact here at home in the upcoming 2025 Federal election where we expect that cynical politicians will try to stoke fear and hate about our communities once more as a means to win or hold onto power.

Over the last few months I have gained a lot of hope from connecting with other movements, learning from our elders, and reading about how past movements have navigated such moments - how they have persevered against the odds, shifted power, and emerged victorious.

No doubt, we have some big obstacles ahead of us, but as organisers we know that with crisis also comes opportunity. The attacks on our community give us a powerful motivation and urgency to act, to dream big, and to build the power we need to change the future for all of our communities.

As always the only way out is through. Together we must continue to show up and find ways to fight together across all of our differences for a society which puts the safety, dignity, and equality of all people over private profit and power.

It's easy in moments like this to feel like the tide of history is impossible to turn but past movements show us that history is written by the actions and choices of millions of individuals. The future is not yet written and it is the actions we take in the year ahead that will shape the circumstances of the trans community in Australia and also abroad.

There is nowhere I would rather be than right here fighting alongside all of you for the future we deserve.

In solidarity,

Jackie Turner Director, she/her

"Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act. When you recognise uncertainty, you recognise that you may be able to influence the outcomes – you alone or you in concert with a few dozen or several million others.

Hope is an embrace of the unknown and the unknowable, an alternative to the certainty of both optimists and pessimists. Optimists think it will all be fine without our involvement; pessimists adopt the opposite position; both excuse themselves from acting.

It is the belief that what we do matters even though how and when it may matter, who and what it may impact, are not things we can know beforehand."

Rebecca Solnit





Our Mission

Our mission is to build a powerful, trans-led movement fighting for freedom, justice, and equality for all trans and gender diverse people. We are working together with our communities, loved ones, and allies to bring about a future where all trans people are safe, celebrated, and free.

Our Strategy



Build the Movement

Empower a new generation of trans leaders who are organising and building power in communities and institutions all over the continent, helping to create real change for our communities and put our demands on the political agenda.



Change the narrative

Socialise a new movement story that reflects the diversity of our community, centres our freedom and autonomy, and wins public support to our cause.



Shift the politics

Turn people power into political will. Build support for a real plan to secure freedom, justice, and equality for all trans and gender diverse people.

What we do

Strategy

Strategy development Research and analysis Communications

Coordination

Network building Relationship development

Training

Leadership development Capacity building Resource development

Campaigning Organising Mobilising Advocacy

What we have achieved together

Campaign wins



RANZCP

Pressured the Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to **reject the Cass Review.**



Kellie-Jay Keen

Won the campaign to **stop Kellie-Jay Keen** entering Australia.

Cass Review Fact Sheet

Cass Review

Led the response to stop the flawed Cass Review gaining traction in Australia

Training and events



Brought together 100 trans advocates for the **Trans Justice Strategy Retreat**



Hosted the first **Trans Justice Organising Fellowship** for a cohort of 25 participants

Resources

Released the **Anti-Trans Disinformation Handbook** which has now been downloaded 1500+ times by people in 35 countries

The Anti-Trans Disinformation Handbook

A handbook for media, civil socie and Governments for combating anti-trans disinformation. A Disinfo Watch Resource

What we have achieved together

January - April

Cass Review Response

The Cass Review was the final report of an anti-trans review of genderaffirming care in the UK. We knew that if we were not organised to oppose its uptake it could be a powerful weapon for the anti-trans lobby, spreading disinformation and doing real damage to public support for trans health care in Australia.

In the lead up to the release of the report we consulted with groups in the UK, pulled together a briefing document, drafted a strategy, briefed important allies and constituencies, and held 2 briefing sessions for trans organisations in Australia to plan our response.

We also released inoculation materials through our social media and website to brief our supporters on the review, its hidden agenda, the exclusion of trans people from the process, and its deeply problematic recommendations.

The result of this work was that the review has been left largely marginalised by the health sector in Australia, and has so far received no endorsement from any major health organisation in the country.

We developed messaging which was then used by organisations and advocates across the sector to respond to the review in the media.

Some of the first organisations to respond to the review globally borrowed heavily from our framing and messaging.

Cass Review Fact Sheet

Pre-release resource for media, commentators, and advocates.

9.04.24

Trans Justice Strategy Retreat

Over three days on beautiful Wurundjeri Country, we brought together more than 100 trans campaigners from across this continent to build relationships, share ideas, discuss how we build a powerful movement for trans justice and fight back against the anti-trans lobby.

This retreat was one of the largest ever gatherings of trans justice campaigners, allies, and activists in Australia. We had such a massive range of experiences in the room; everyone from grassroots activists, to parents of trans youth, clinicians, researchers, allies, and long-time advocates.

We want to give a special shout-out to our sponsors who helped make this retreat possible: ACON, LGBTIQ+ Health Australia, Minus18, Switchboard Victoria, Queensland Council for LGBTI Health, Speak Australia, Thorne Harbour Health, Transcend Australia, and Twenty10.

Because of these contributions, we were able to provide 20 people with scholarships to attend the retreat. This included scholarships for all First Nations attendees and 15 young people under the age of 25. These scholarships included access to all activities and programming, as well as accommodation & catering, across the 3-days with travel support for all First Nations attendees.

The majority of the agenda was participant-led, with dedicated time for open space discussion groups. We also had caucuses for First Nations people, people of colour, disabled folks, and trans youth. Since the retreat, multiple participants have told us that they found these spaces important and empowering.

We spend so much of our lives as trans people feeling like we are alone. These caucuses gave many people their first opportunity to connect in-person with other trans folks of similar ages, experiences, and backgrounds.

A huge congratulations to Sage Akouri who came onboard for 6 months to lead the organising and recruitment for this event.

Testimonials

"It was a strong opportunity to connect within other trans and gender diverse peoples and communities, to learn more about programs, initiatives and advocacy efforts to **grow**, **empower and enable a safer and more inclusive community.**"

"The camp was an excellent opportunity to be with community and have important conversations about our **future and liberation**."

"The retreat was practical, educational, enlightening, and useful. I was absolutely privileged to be able to sit in that space. Simply by listening over one huge weekend, I was able to develop trans justice advocacy tools that since the retreat I have already implemented and will use for the rest of my life, to be **a more effective and inclusive ally**."



May

RANZCP Campaign Win

We ran a campaign to stop the anti-trans organisation SEGM from being platformed at the Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists annual Congress. We started a petition, rallied media attention, helped organise members to oppose the session, and protested on the day of the Congress.

On the day we handed out more than 400 flyers, talked with board members, and hundreds of attendees of the conference.

While the session was allowed to go ahead, board members from RANZCP committed to attending the session along with Pride network members. During the session an open letter was distributed. It called on the RANZCP Executive to support a review similar to the Cass Review in Australia. Only 17 Psychiatrists signed on in support and in the days after, RANZCP officially rejected their request and the relevance of the Cass Review to Australia.

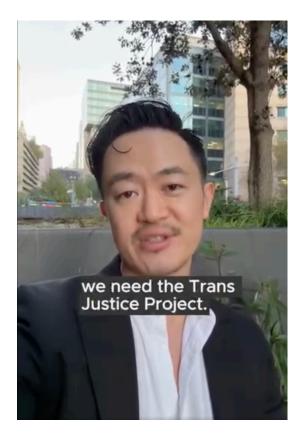
This is a huge victory and testament to the work we did to engage with the public and College members. The next conference is in May and we will be working to ensure that anti-trans lobbyists are not platformed at this event.



June

End of Financial Year Fundraiser

With the support of our community and allies we raised more than \$30,000. Thanks so much to the cast of the Laramie Project and Benjamin Law for recording a video of support for the fundraiser. Thanks as well to Catriona Wallace and Oranges and Sardines for agreeing to match donations made to us during the campaign



July

NSW Equality Bill

In the lead up to the parliamentary debate of the NSW Equality Bill, we supported people to write letters, meet with their MPs, and organised a week long phone jam to the Premier's office. Over the week, more than a hundred people made calls urging the Premier to support passing the bill in its entirety.

Over the following months we worked in concert with a number of other community organisations to support the Bill passing. While the NSW Government removed vital antidiscrimination protections from the Bill, it still managed to bring forward a number of important and historic reforms such as allowing trans people to update the gender on their birth certificates without the need for surgery.



August

Anti-Trans Disinformation Trainings

We launched our 90 minute Disinformation Training. This training equips organisations, governments, and businesses with the skills to identify and combat the lies spread by the anti-trans lobby. Developed by a trans-led expert team, participants receive valuable skills, resources, and information to help empower and inform their communities. We have already delivered a number of these training sessions and spaces are still available for next year. Book yours here [https://transjustice.org.au/about-us/training/]

Tickle v Giggle

We supported Roxanne Tickle's anti-discrimination case by serving as media spokesperson on the day of the decision. We will be continuing to work together with her and her team in the lead up to the appeal next year.



Fighting for Trans Inclusion in the Census

When the Federal Government announced that LGBTSBQIA+ people would not be included in the census we used our voice and power to speak up, standing firm to ensure that trans and gender-diverse people were included.

Staff Retreat

We had our first staff retreat together in Maroochydore. Our staff team of four spent three days together planning, training, and preparing for the months ahead.



September

13

The Anti-Trans Disinformation Handbook

The Anti-Trans Disinformation Handbook brings together the learnings from more than 18 months of testing and research, and our team's expertise in messaging, campaign strategy, and combatting disinformation. Our hope is that by giving allies the frameworks and information they need to respond to anti-trans attacks, they will be better able to help stop the spread of disinformation and limit its impacts on our community.

At time of writing the Handbook has now been downloaded more than 1500+ times by people in more than 35 countries. Many international LGBTSBQIA+ organisations have downloaded the resource and are using it as inspiration for their own disinformation work.

In testament to the effectiveness of the resource, our Handbook has drawn the attention of a number of domestic and international anti-trans groups such as the founder of the LGB Alliance, Bev Jackson.



Downloaded 1500+ times by people in 35 countries

Testimonial

"The anti-trans disinformation handbook is amazing - in fact, it was recently distributed to the team at the institute where I'm doing my PhD, and is proving to be a crucial resource for many of the researchers. I'll continue to share it with any other groups that could benefit from it."



The Anti-Trans Disinformation Handbook

A handbook for media, civil society, and Governments for combating anti-trans disinformation.

A Disinfo Watch Resourc

October - November

Stopped Kellie-Jay Keen returning to Australia

When Lucy From Naarm broke the news that anti-trans campaigner Kellie-Jay Keen was attending CPAC, we put up a petition urging the Department of Home Affairs to deny her a visa. Over the next two weeks, we rallied media attention, emailed the government and relevant ministers, and encouraged people to call and email their MPs. As a result of our campaign Kellie-Jay Keen visa was delayed and she was forced to cancel her trip.

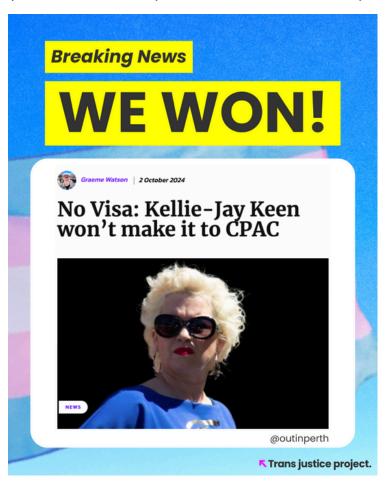
Kellie-Jay Keen's tour in 2023 was met with massive counter-protests organised by a number of different groups that drowned out and shut down her events all over the continent. A group of neo-nazis attended the event in Melbourne and held up an offensive banner alleging that trans people were 'pedos' and calling for our community to be 'destroyed'.

In the wake of Kellie-Jay Keen's 2023 tour of the country, we worked together with the Victorian Pride Lobby on a major survey to capture people's experiences of anti-trans hate. Our findings, published in the Fuelling Hate report, showed that our community experienced a spike in instances of antitrans hate during the two-month period that directly coincided with Kellie-Jay

Keen's tour, specifically experiences of vilification, abuse, and harassment.

In August 2023 we supported people all over the country to deliver copies of the Fuelling Hate report to their local MPs, reaching more than 88 politicians across the country, urging them to act to protect our communities from violence, vilification, and abuse.

All the work we did over 2023 provided vital evidence to decision makers about how damaging Keen's tour was for our community and why antitrans campaigners like her should not be allowed to tour here in the future.



Trans Justice Network

The Trans Justice Network is a new network of local groups that are building power in their communities to fight for trans justice. We support groups with resources, coaching, and help coordinate across the network.

This year we helped to launch the first trans justice local groups by supporting launch events in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide. We will continue to support these groups going into the new year.

Many of the groups are now gearing up for our campaigns in the new year with trainings planned for February-March.

A huge shout out to Trans Justice Canberra who has thus far signed up more than 600 people to the Trans Justice Pledge and having hundreds of conversations about what trans justice looks like in their community.

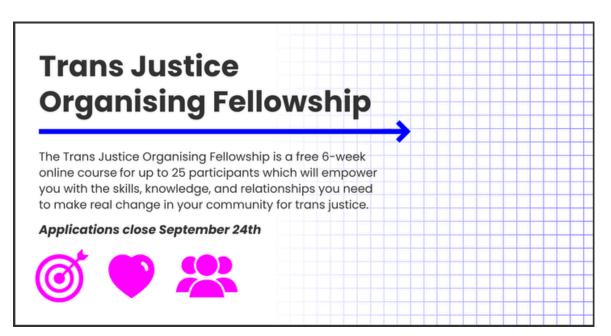


Trans Justice Organising Fellowship

In October we hosted our first Trans Justice Organising Fellowship - a six-week online course for 25 participants focused on building skills in leadership, strategy, tactics, movement building, and building power.

Special consideration was given to applicants who were First Nations, people of colour, people who live outside of major cities, people who are involved in communities of faith, and people who are migrants or refugees.

The program was incredibly successful with participants walking away with new friendships, skills, and resources. We received very positive feedback and are now planning to run a second fellowship next year.



Other Achievements

Anti-Trans Movement Framework

Our article on the Commons Library has now been linked 1,236 times making it the highest performing article on the website. For comparison, the next highest linked resource is Bill moyer's Movement Action Plans (Four Roles Resources) with 197 links.

Nominated for ACON award

We were honoured to be nominated for an ACON Honour Award this year. Congratulations to our friends at The Aurora Group who won.

Key Collaborations

T-Shirt Release

We once again worked with our friends at **Sock Drawer Heroes**, Australia's leading gender expression store, to do a second release of our Trans Justice Project tee. The shirt was designed by the great **Judy Kuo**. Keep posted for next year's t-shirt design.

Our Watch Guidelines

We consulted on **<u>Our Watch's</u>** new Guidelines for reporting of Trans and Gender Diverse Communities.

Human Rights Law Centre

We provided the foreword for the Human Rights Law Centre's latest report: <u>Rights First: Principles for Digital Platform Regulation</u>.

Australian Democracy Network Training

Together with the <u>Australian Democracy Network</u> and the Research & Action Hub we delivered training for civil society groups to learn about responding to disinformation and our toxic information system. It was a diverse group of participants who were campaigning across a number of different issues.



Key Events and Speaking Engagements

Here are just a few of the speaking engagements we had this year:

- Victorian Trades Hall International Women's Day Rally
- Workshop at Inner City Legal Centre's Trans Justice Symposium
- Workshop at <u>Trans and Friends Festival Illawarra</u>
- <u>Our Watch Transcending Stereotypes Webinar</u>
- Presentation at <u>IUSTI World Congress</u>
- <u>The Veterinary Kaleidoscope Summit 2024</u>
- Panelist at <u>PreventX</u>
- Stall at <u>PAX Australia</u>
- Presentation at <u>FWD+Organise</u>
- Legal Aid NSW
- <u>St Vincent's Hospital Sydney</u>
- <u>NSW Teachers Federation</u>
- <u>Australian Education Union</u>
- <u>Justice Advocacy Service</u>



Our stall at Pax Aus

Our vision for next year



Federal Election Campaign

Together we will build and demonstrate the widespread support for the trans community, have thousands of conversations, and hold leaders who seek to scapegoat our community accountable.



Building New Local Groups

Building up our supporter pathways, working to start new groups in communities around the country, and expand support for existing groups.



Regional Trainings

Run organising trainings in key locations around the country to build our communities skills, build local relationships, and launch our campaign.

Media, Articles, Podcasts

Cass Review

https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/p sychiatrists-call-for-review-into-genderblockers-crosssex-hormones-in-wake-ofnhs-review/newsstory/0054b91c95385597c35fa1dd101ba40a

https://www.outinperth.com/cass-reviewuk-report-on-trans-youth-supportreleased/

https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/jkrowling-wont-forgive-trans-allyship-fromharry-potter-stars/229988

https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/healthand-wellness/contentious-uk-gendermedicine-report-prompts-reflectionoutrage-in-australia-20240410-p5fivg.html

Tickle v Giggle

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13771063/Transgender-woman-winsgroundbreaking-woman-case-kickedfemale-app.html

https://www.spectator.com.au/2024/08/biol ogy-bows-to-gender-identity/

https://joy.org.au/saturdaymagazine/2024/ 05/saturday-11th-may-2024-jackie-turnerdirector-trans-justice-project-giggle-vstickle-what-is-a-woman/

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024 /oct/03/tickle-vs-giggle-for-girls-apptransgender-discrimination-case-appealntwnfb_

https://www.theforgegastown.ca/2024/10/0 3/lido-pnto/JEB275946MI18OD07.html

https://www.inkl.com/news/giggle-for-girlsfounder-appeals-finding-that-appdiscriminated-against-transgender-woman

Kellie-Jay Keen

https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/kelli e-jay-keen-minshull-denied-visa-aftercommunity-campaign/233215

https://qnews.com.au/kellie-jay-keen-hasnot-been-granted-a-visa-to-enteraustralia/

https://www.outinperth.com/no-visa-kelliejay-keen-wont-make-it-to-cpac/

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13888677/Posie-Parker-ban-Australia-UKtrans.html

https://www.outinperth.com/home-affairminister-tony-burke-urged-to-take-actionon-kellie-jay-keens-return-to-australia/

https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/nati onal-news/victoria-news/petitionlaunched-to-ban-kellie-jay-keen-minshullfrom-coming-back-to-australia/233062

https://qnews.com.au/petition-launchedto-stop-kellie-jay-keens-trip-to-brisbane/

https://www.thepinknews.com/2024/10/03/f ounder-of-female-only-app-appealsagainst-trans-discrimination-ruling/



Media, Articles, Podcasts

Census

https://qnews.com.au/over-100-orgs-callon-government-to-count-all-of-us-incensus/

https://www.theguardian.com/australianews/article/2024/aug/30/dutton-says-heis-fine-with-census-sexuality-questiondespite-earlier-attacking-woke-agenda



Other

https://heterosexualnonsense.substack.com /p/what-is-the-wpath-leak-and-why-is

https://www.heraldsun.com.au/truecrimeau stralia/police-courts-victoria/single-sexspaces-matter-victorian-woman-meljefferies-slams-trans-rights-activist/newsstory/84627e1f7428ce3a1322cac3c229edcc

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AiZkm NaTy/

https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2024 /11/building-a-powerful-movementstanding-up-for-all-trans-and-genderdiverse-people/

Thank you

Thanks so much to everyone who has helped to build this organisation.

Whether you provided advice, pro bono support, volunteered, donated, ran a fundraiser, or simply shared our work on social media you are a vital part of this movement.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to fund this work including Rainbow Giving, Oranges and Sardines, Chuffed, Ethical Jobs, Sock Drawer Heroes, Tripple, The Sunrise Project, Cat Wallace, our solidarity members and everyone who donates.

A huge thanks to those who ran community fundraisers for us this year including <u>Sock Drawer Heroes</u> and <u>Penguin Empress Studios</u>. Please go follow both on social media.

Finally I want to thank everyone who is doing their best to support our community right now - it's an honour to be working alongside you all.

Become a Solidarity Member

Support trans justice

We have big plans for next year but we need help to make them a reality.

Consider supporting our work by becoming a monthly donor. Regular donations help us plan ahead, provide more certainty for our staff, and allow us to scale up our efforts quicker.

Sign up today <u>transjustice.org.au/solidarity-member/</u>

transjustice.org.au



