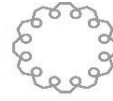




TRANS  
GENDER  
VICTORIA



Zoe Belle  
Gender Collective

Fitzroy  
Legal  
Service

## Media Statement

For immediate release 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Joint statement from LGBTQI+ rights advocates and allies on the treatment of transgender women in the Victorian prison system

Flat Out Inc, Transgender Victoria, Zoe Belle Gender Collective and Fitzroy Legal Service have released the following statement regarding the story in the *Herald Sun* on 11 August about the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and are calling for intensive cultural and policy changes to protect transgender women in the Victorian prison system.

#### Statement

Although Victoria has made enormous progress on the legal and human rights of trans, intersex and non-binary people in our community, including the landmark 2020 birth certificate reforms, **Victorian prisons are clearly struggling to implement these reforms** and to place people safely and in accordance with their gender identity.

Overwhelmingly, trans women continue to be placed in men's prisons and face ongoing vilification and violence. More recently a number of trans women have been placed in indefinite and long term solitary confinement. Solitary confinement over 15 days is defined as torture and prohibited under Australian and international human rights standards. Human rights are universal and apply to all, including incarcerated people.

The LGBTQI+ community and allies have been lobbying the Minister of Corrections Sonya Kilkenny and Corrections Victoria to address these issues as a matter of urgency. The necessary changes require intensive cultural and policy changes that must be informed by evidence and expertise, in particular the lived experience of transgender people who have experienced incarceration.

Leaking unreliable and sensationalised information about the criminal histories of individuals to other people in prison and to the media is deeply concerning and dangerous.

Today's highly selective and distorted "story" in the *Herald Sun* is just another instance of desperate wedge politics against progress on this issue and more broadly toward real equality for all Victorians.

#### Organisations signed onto joint statement

FlatOut Inc.

Zoe Belle Gender Collective

Transgender Victoria

Fitzroy Legal Service

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