

## Operational/policy updates

### **National Identity and Documentary Heritage**

#### ***Review of transgender and gender identity information in identity documents***

The Passport Office, in consultation with the transgender community and with the support of the Human Rights Commission, is reviewing its operational policy regarding the gender displayed in a passport for transgender applicants and those wishing to record a change in gender identity. We are consulting with these communities across New Zealand with an expectation of being able to implement a new flexible policy in September 2012. It is intended that the new gender identity would be displayed in the passport only and will not alter the person's birth or citizenship record. This change will have no effect on the Births, Deaths and Marriages and Relationships Registration Act 1995, which allows for an adult or guardian of an eligible child to apply to the New Zealand Family Court for a declaration to have their birth record reflect their nominated gender.

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There may be some publicity and media emanating from how transgender and gender identity information is displayed in identity documents. The Department is developing key media messages and will handle media enquiries.

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