



## Safety at school for the Transgender Student

David Ford, Emil Ford Lawyers

Although the number of transgender children of school age in Australia is extremely small, the majority of our schools has by now had experience of a transgender child seeking to enrol or to transition from one gender to another while enrolled. This paper will examine a school's responsibilities when dealing with transgender children from the enrolment process until the end of schooling. I will consider the application of Australian anti-discrimination legislation and of a school's duty of care. I will also explore the practical issues that face schools in relation to the use of toilets and change rooms, accommodation on camps, sport, uniforms, and LGBT clubs. While the focus will be on the Australian situation, I will make reference to the experience of, and the laws applying to, transgender students in schools internationally and particularly in the USA.