



## **BIOGRAPHY**

Melissa Griffiths is a transgender authority and advocate who lives in Melbourne. She is also a media commentator, well sought after Mistress of Ceremonies (MC) keynote/inspirational speaker and panelist for panel discussions.

Melissa is also a diversity and inclusion consultant who has managed to get a gender identity policy introduced at various horse racing clubs including the BRC, MRC and VRC. She consulted to Cricket Australia in development of their Guidelines for inclusion of Gender Diverse and Transgender People in Cricket.

She was previously a board director of Elder Rights Advocacy Victoria and JustSociale a Sydney based Non-Profit Organisation. She is also an ambassador for Flutterbys in the UK as well as Global Goodwill Ambassador (GGA) – LinkedIn and was an Ambassador for Ygap's 2017 Polished Man campaign.

Melissa is also a co-author of The Power to Rise above which is an empowering book with stories written by women from all over the world sharing how they overcome their challenges in life to be successful. She was a board director of Sydney based non-profit organisation JustSociale and previously a board director of Elder Rights Advocacy in Victoria.

Melissa has overcome many challenges in her journey as a transgender female. She has had to overcome the obstacles of transitioning in the workplace; society's attitudes towards her as well as the many challenges that come with living day-to-day as a transgender female.

A recognised Thought Leader who draws upon her experiences and expertise to consult to business and mentor individuals as well as speak out and be a voice for those in her community who do not have a voice.

Melissa is a recipient of an Australia Day Achievement Award. Melissa was the keynote speaker at RMIT for International Womens Day speaking about Organisational Gender Diversity and Policy. She also spoke at the National Employment Solutions Conference in 2018 presenting Transgender from All Angles talking about how all issues around a transgender person transitioning in the workplace.

Melissa speaks on a variety of topics including but not limited to:

- Belonging and Power of Connection
- Bullying, harassment intimidation and sexual harassment
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Effective Advocacy
- Embracing Equity
- Gender Identity
- How to create an inclusive workplace for transgender people
- Leadership
- LGBTQIA+ issues/rights
- Organisational Gender Diversity and Policy
- Overcoming challenges
- Perspective
- Social media – The importance and value of it in a modern world.
- Transgender from all angles

Melissa raises awareness about bully, harassment, diversity, inclusion, and making workplaces more inclusive for transgender people through the media and various social media platforms.

She is regularly interviewed by media including tv, radio, podcasts and for various media publications. Melissa has been previously been interviewed by Fox FM and Weekend Sunrise in 2022 and in 2020 was interviewed for online TV show The Informer. She has also been featured on ABC News in 2018 and on TV show Studio 10 in 2017.

Melissa has been on the front cover of Sofya Style Magazine in the UK in 2018 as well being featured in the popular magazine – MINDFOOD in October 2019. Melissa also is a freelance journalist who writes articles for various online publications and websites including channel nine.

Melissa recently been awarded Most Dedicated & Inclusive Transgender Advocate 2023 – (Victoria) in Acquisition International's Influential Businesswoman Awards 2023.

In 2023 Melissa was a finalist for the Victorian Pride Awards in the Outstanding Media Category.

Melissa won the Best Transgender Issues & Inclusion Consultant 2022 (Australia) award in the Global Health & Pharma's Healthcare & Pharmaceutical Awards 2022.

In 2019 Melissa received an Australia Day Achievement Award as well as the Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship and Karmaveer Chakra Award instituted by ICONGO & the UN from India.

She was a finalist in the 2019 Australian LGBTI Awards in the Hero Category and a finalist in 2018 Womens Agenda Women in Leadership Awards for Agenda Setter of the year. Melissa completed the first ever LGBTI Leadership Program in 2018 and was a finalist as LGBTI person of the year in the 2017 Victorian LGBTI Awards.

She is a brave, courageous, strong and resilient person who has become a Leader in her own right who draws upon her experiences to #ChooseToChallenge to make the world a better place.