

**LJH7 10.4.89**

Chunky, tough looking young woman, jeans, leather jacket, DMs, very short, spiky blond hair. Lesbian, living with current lover for about 2 years, they have a two year old little girl (the other woman's, a baby when LJH7 met her). Is Australian, been in England over two years, ma is [EDUCATION ROLE] working in [COMMUNITY ORGANISATION] pa is [HIGHER EDUCATION ROLE]. Two brothers, older one went to uni, dropped out, younger one finishing high school. Both at home, but parents (who have had problems in the relationship for some years) separated this year. LJH7 left school and home at 15 and a half, moved to town (Sydney) from the suburbs, and joined the gay scene. It was very promiscuous, and she had many sexual encounters (she put 100 on the questionnaire) with both men and women. She knew she tended towards women, and after a couple of years did not have sexual encounters with men. She was sexually active whilst still living at home, but her first boyfriend when she was still at school was a sexual relationship without sex. Some girls at school did, some didn't and she was with the group who didn't.

Her first sex with a man was against her will. She was going to the gay strip in Sydney every night, and when not able to get back home would stay with people she knew. She stayed with him, a transvestite. She thought he was not interested in women, tho he did make a pass. She told him no, but woke up in the night and he was 'screwing' her. She said it was not as bad as it could have been, and did not make her feel too bad, although it obviously was not a pleasant experience.

She currently works for a [LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATION], and hopes to advance there, and thinks she might, but it is not a long term career, and she sees it as a bit of an issue. She does not expect to go back to Australia particularly, does not see it as her base, but would like to travel. She does not see the current relationship 'lasting forever, I can see cracks appearing already which will probably make us break up'. But it is very important to her, the first time she has had a sexual relationship of any length or lived with anyone. She did not have relationships before, just sexual encounters. She did talk about her first lesbian relationship with a girl at school, which was long term (tho not monogamous by any means once they got to the gay strip) but she regarded it as a friendship, which only stopped when she left Australia.

She is ultra well informed about AIDS, gets most information from the gay press (does not trust the straight press) and friends, is very worried about it and has friends (gays) who are very worried, some ill, some have died. She fears that she may have been infected but does not want to take the test to know. Practices safe sex, but mentions blurred areas, when you do not know if you are. Lots of blood exchanges in lesbian encounters at times. You can't be sure of others, can only make sure you try to use safe sex yourself. She used to be passive, others took the initiative in sexual encounters (men and women), but now she is older, and feels that she can take the initiative. She is 21 years 4 months old.

She got our qr from work (so I told her to ignore it if she got another, but persuade her friends to be interviewed). Would be interviewed next year if still around, thinks it would be too difficult to keep a diary.

Said she checked our qr to see if we were 'heterosexist bastards' but we passed muster on that one. Thought maybe it was not aimed for her but realised that she was at the

upper end of our age range. I said we had thought of targetting age more directly, but it was very complicated, and easier to make the qr rather general.

She was a bit, not shy, but said she needed prompting at first. Also said the tape might put her off, but it did not seem to especially as we got going. I was not altogether pleased with me in the interview, felt I was a bit repetitive, and sluggish in keeping the thing going. Must think through more carefully what kinds of things to ask young lesbian women. Did not ask her directly if the current relationship was monogamous, though I had got the impression it was. (I could be wrong tho, that could be a crack). Could ask lesbians how they thought of their sexuality before they had sex. I did ask her when she first decided she was lesbian. But it was blurred, things were happening at the same time, a process rather than an event, decision.