



PFLAG Brisbane

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Newsletter September/October 2012

Keeping Families Together

Hi Everyone,

With so many changes in Queensland's current political landscape many of us feel a sense of uncertainty as we work out how to best advance our desire for equal rights for our children. It is both refreshing and frustrating that seasoned campaigners like Malcolm Turnbull support our cause while acknowledging that not much will change in the quest for same sex marriage legislation in the near future.

If you would like to show your support for this and other LGBTQI issues you can participate in the Pride Fair on Saturday 16th September (see page 2 for more details).
Cheers Pip :-)

TURNBULL WOULD VOTE FOR GAY MARRIAGE

He's not allowed a free vote on gay marriage, but if he could Liberal frontbencher Malcolm Turnbull would vote for the rights of gay and lesbian couples to marry, he has told a debate in parliament. As debate resumed ahead of a conscience vote on the issue later in the year, Mr Turnbull said the coalition had taken a position not to allow its members a free vote on the issue and therefore he would not be voting in favour of the bill. But that did not reflect his personal opinion, he said. "Were a free vote to be permitted, I would support legislation which recognised same-sex couples as being described as a marriage," Mr Turnbull said on Monday.

If divorced individuals are allowed to marry and adulterers given the same rights, so should homosexuals.

"The whole issue drips with hypocrisy and I have to say that the pools are deepest at the feet of the sanctimonious," he said.

Despite his strong support for same-sex marriage, Mr Turnbull - like many debating the issue - is not hopeful that the vote will go that way this time. Parliament could, however, legislate for civil unions, he said. Fellow Liberal and long-time gay-rights activist Warren Entsch said he had a private member's bill about civil unions ready to table which he had set aside until the gay marriage debate was resolved.

"There are some very serious issues in the transgender and intersex community which are causing huge problems and, sadly, if they're not addressed we're going to see some very high and unacceptable levels of suicide," Mr Entsch said. Attorney-General Nicola Roxon agreed that this was unlikely to be the year that same-sex marriages became law.

But change was coming, she said.

"It would say that Australia promotes monogamous relationships ... that strengthens our nation's social fabric," Ms Roxon said.

Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare spoke of how his own traditional views about marriage had changed over the course of the debate.

"Society's views have changed, and so have mine," Mr Clare said.

"We all deserve the same rights and opportunities in life, whether it's the right to vote, the right to equal pay for equal work, the right to practise your religion, the right to drink in the same pub, sit in the same cinema, or marry the person that you love." Some speakers were opposed to the bill on same-sex marriage including Liberal Luke Simpkins who thought it was a non-issue for voters, Labor's Chris Hayes who cited his strong Catholic background and his colleague Joel Fitzgibbon whose electorate was "not ready" for the change.

7 News Katelyn Catanzariti, AAP September 10, 2012, 4:09 pm

Next PFLAG Meeting - 6th October - 1.30pm

30 Helen Street Teneriffe

Guest Speaker: Child of a Gay Parent



We Are Family

2012 Brisbane Pride Festival
1st Sep-30th Sept
brisbanepridefestival.com.au

Just a reminder that Pride Fair Day is on Sunday 16th Sept.

The parade leaves from outside the Wickham Hotel around 11am after the rally.

The Fair is held at Perry Park. I have booked a tent.

Please let me know if you are happy to be on the stall during the day.

I also need to know if people are marching so people will have the banner to carry.

Remember this is an important day for PFLAG to be seen, give out resources and meet with the LGBTIQ community.

I will need people happy to set up which is from around 8am and to pack up at the end of the day.

We also need people to be at the stall throughout the day.

Please let me know if you want to be part of the day.

Shelley Ph: 0409 363 335



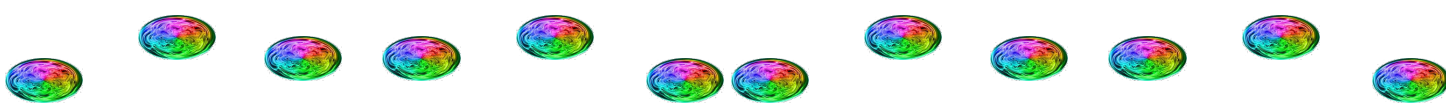
This year, the theme of
the Pride
Festival is

We Are Family

Families come in all
shapes and sizes.

Some of us are bound by
blood, some of us
by bond.

Whatever the makeup of
your family, this year's
festival is all about you.



Advocate

PFLAG member Melissa found her 'activist voice' recently and emailed a fellow parishoner after a PFLAG meeting when psychologist Paul Martin spoke so passionately about surrogacy and about the need for people to speak to their fellow parishioners at the different liturgies we would each attend.

"Next weekend I followed through, then sent this" says Melissa.

"Well, I did it! I couldn't psyche myself into the right level of courage by the Prayers of the Faithful, but I managed by the end of the Liturgy, and I did a virtual ad. for PFLAG, saying how important this week was, how distressed some members, especially parents, were and how we needed more 'friends' of LGBTIQ folk to join us so we could speak with a bigger voice, to avoid increased depression/suicide etc levels (which I said has already started). I told them how to look up and/or phone PFLAG etc. and how good the literature was. Now up to them! About three people said thanks for speaking. Nil may happen, but I'm glad I did it."



Donations to PFLAG can be made at any time via our website

www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

or by direct deposit.

**Account Name - PFLAG
Brisbane**

BSB - 124-001

Account No - 2023-8607

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Advocate

PFLAG member Lynn met with Jane Prentice (Federal Member for Ryan) recently and left her office feeling slightly positive because although Jane is a member of the Liberal party she is also a supporter of PFLAG, and in the current political climate we need all the political support we can get.

Jane and her assistant had some advice for people wanting to contact politicians and lobby groups: that hand written letters certainly go further than formatted generic typed letters in reaching their targeted personnel. I guess we all knew that and Shelley has asked us all on numerous occasions to do so, but although we may hesitate because of the time involved, maybe we really should make the effort.

Talking of Changing Political Climates...

Due to the changing circumstances of QAHC and uncertainty of funding, PFLAG is now limiting mailouts of newsletters. We are shifting to a wider electronic distribution method as a cost saving measure.

This will save money in printing and postage but will also enable us to get the newsletter out to you immediately and keep you informed of events that may be short dated.

We would invite as many people as possible to sign up and receive future newsletters via email.

If you currently receive a hard copy of this newsletter and would like to now receive an electronic copy please email PFLAG at pflagbris@hotmail.com

If you would like to remain on the postal mailing list please call Erica on 0400 767 832 or leave a message on 30171739.

Let the Future be Kinder and More Just than the Past!

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***Talking to Someone Who Really
Understands Makes it So Much Easier***

Working through some of the deeper emotional issues with having a gay or lesbian son or daughter can be one of the most painful and stressful experiences of your life. Counselling is a highly effective way of feeling better and also can assist in keeping your family together. *Centre for Human Potential* have been working with parents of gays, lesbians and transgender for over 15 years. Contact one of our friendly psychologists to explore whether counselling can be of real benefit to you and your family, or simply call and book a time with one of us.

Phone: 3211 1117

Email: info@centreforhumanpotential.com.au

Michele Lindsay Queer Counsellor

Individual and relationship counselling

Mobile 0439 157 422 | Email mvlindsay@yahoo.com.au



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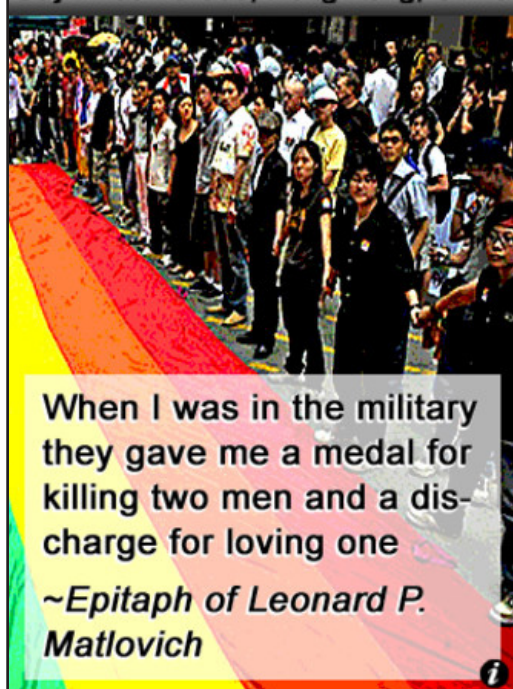
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Gay Pride Parade, Hong Kong, China



**When I was in the military
they gave me a medal for
killing two men and a dis-
charge for loving one**

**~Epitaph of Leonard P.
Matlovich**

[http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gay-quotes/
id312716714?mt=8](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gay-quotes/id312716714?mt=8)



Keeping Families Together

PFLAG is very proactive in promoting acceptance and understanding of people who disclose their sexual diversity to family and loved ones. Parents often feel isolated, confused or angry when their loved one 'comes out' and this is an important area where PFLAG can offer assistance.

**Join us at our meetings, held every 2 months or contact us by
phone: 0400 767 832 or email: info@pflagbrisbane.org.au**

PFLAG Brisbane Annual Membership Form

Please complete the form below and return to PFLAG.

You can also pay online - www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Larger donations are always welcome. Thanks for your support.

Name: _____

Ph: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Membership Type:

Family - \$25.00 annually - I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order made out to PFLAG Brisbane Inc.

Corporate - \$100.00 annually - (includes website and newsletter advertising) I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order made out to PFLAG Brisbane Inc.

Mail to: PO Box 1372, Eagle Farm BC Qld. 4009

Bring to: 30 Helen St, Teneriffe 4006

Pay Online: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Pay direct deposit: Account Name - PFLAG Brisbane

BSB - 124-001

Account No - 2023-8607

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Please make sure you provide us with your contact details (name, email and /or postal address so we can receipt your payment and ensure you receive our newsletters.