



PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter

July 2021

*Our committee hopes that all our new and existing PFLAG+ members feel welcome into our group and are willing to accept their LGBTIQ+ loved ones. We at PFLAG+ Brisbane are a community of people hoping to support and learn from one another in order to help each of us on our respective journeys as **Parents and Friends of LGBTIQ+ individuals**.*

As a group, our overall goal is to provide non-judgemental, confidential support and resources. If you are new to PFLAG+ Brisbane, or may be struggling with LGBTIQ+ related issues, we hope to provide you with a forum to safely share your concerns, comments or questions.

Next Community Meeting

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Date | Saturday, 14th of August |
| Time | 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm |
| Location | Chermside Library Meeting Room 375 Hamilton Rd, Chermside, Qld 4032 Phone: 07-3403 7200 |

*Our bi-monthly Community meeting will be **face-to-face** at the library **unless Covid restrictions limit our venue's access**. Should this occur, an email will be sent out to our mailing list with a Zoom link for online meeting details.*

Upcoming LGBTIQ+ Dates To Acknowledge

The LGBTIQ+ calendar is full of special days to acknowledge and remember our loved ones of diverse gender and sexuality. Here are a few upcoming events:

16 July

International Drag Day

<https://anydayguide.com/calendar/1126>

27th August

Wear It Purple Day

<https://www.wearitpurple.org/wear-it-purple-day-2020>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wear_it_Purple_Day

PFLAG+ Brisbane News

Positions Available

PFLAG+ is a volunteer, non-profit organisation and we rely on the ongoing support of our community to keep us running as a viable organisation. We are solely focused on the wellbeing of parents and carers, as well as the future of their LGBTIQ+ loved ones.

It has been wonderful to see so many new parents and friends join PFLAG+ Brisbane in the past year despite COVID-19 restrictions and isolation. We are now inviting all community members to become active participants in the ongoing operations of our organisation. Currently, we are seeking expressions of interest in the following areas:

- 1) **Technology maintenance** – basic website updates (WordPress) and weekly, scheduled Facebook updates.
- 2) **Events Coordinator** – involves liaising with local events coordinators and organising PFLAG+ Brisbane members to assist with stalls at Pride Fair, Wear it Purple day, and other open days at universities and other community events.

60th Annual Queen's Ball Award Winners - June 2021

Shelley Argent - Winner of 'Ally of the Year'

<https://qnews.com.au/2021-queens-ball-awards-the-winners-on-brisbanes-big-night/>



Australian News

2022 Pinnacle Foundation Scholarships open 1 July to 15 September

LGBTIQ+ Australians aged between 18 and 26 who are planning to study full time at a public tertiary institution may be eligible for Pinnacle Foundation scholarships.

<https://thepinnaclefoundation.org/about-us/>

<https://thepinnaclefoundation.org/our-scholars/apply-for-a-scholarship/>

Ongoing Political Campaign's for LGBTIQ+ Rights

Shelley Argent, our past PFLAG National Spokesperson and PFLAG+ Brisbane President, has provided us with an update on three on-going, proposed legislative amendments that are concerns to the safety and wellbeing of our LGBTIQ+ loved ones. Although COVID-19 has been at the forefront of our news recently, these issues still exist:

- 1) *Religious 'Freedom'/Discrimination Bill*. As Australians, we have the right to freedom of religion, but if this bill passes as it proposed, it "will give many the belief they can insult and incite hatred under the guise of religious freedom", according to Shelley. Additionally, if passed, the legislation "will override most legislation that would have had protections in place" for LGBTIQ+ people and others.
- 2) *Conversion Practice Therapy*. In 1983, the World Health Organisation stated that homosexuality is a natural sexual variant, not a mental health issue. Today, in Australia, the topic of Conversion Therapy (prayer and other practices that are used to supposedly convert homosexuals into straight people) is on the political agenda again.

According to Shelley, Queensland legislation amendments "do not allow 'professionals' to practice conversion therapy, and yet 'non-professionals' in informal settings can practice this therapy freely." Mental health and suicide issues are at the forefront of the concerns regarding this form of therapy.

- 3) *Blood Donation Discrimination*. In Australia, blood donations from homosexual or bisexual men are legally allowed only after three months of celibacy, while there is no celibacy requirement for anyone else. At the same time, HIV is on the rise for straight men and on the decrease for homosexual men. None of the current legislation regarding this 'celibacy' requirement addresses the safety of a blood donor's sexual activity. This legalised form discrimination against homosexual and bisexual men is another area for LGBTIQ+ activists to address with our legislators.

For more related information regarding upcoming LGBTIQ+ law reform, legislation, and proposed amendments, see Shelley's Facebook page and/or visit: <https://alastairlawrie.net/>

ATSAQ

Australian Transgender Support Association of Queensland was created to help, advise, and assist the transgender community in Queensland. It is a confidential, Brisbane-based, not-for-profit organisation formed in 1990. For more information, go to: www.atsaq.org.au

Watch

Pride Month: Five stories from around the world on BBC

From Canada to Uganda, people are celebrating Pride, both as a protest for LGBT rights and as a party:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-57604310>



Finding Pride in Asia Pacific

Six people from the LGBTQIA+ community in Asia Pacific share some of the questions they asked, and the answers they uncovered, that helped them on their journey to finding pride. Hear their stories of isolation and community, rejection and acceptance, the emphasis on education and de-stigmatisation and the power of unified allyship. They share their stories in the hope of creating a more educated, accepting, and happier space for the entire LGBTQIA+ community.

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiU8Jm1w77xAhWkguYKHdFBJ0QFjAAegQIAhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fplaylist%3Flist%3DPL590L5WQmH8eMwSNXCBoVaq6hM-M86zOv&usg=AOvVaw1R_Pv-Fbq52Tbc0yuBGfz

ABC You Can't Ask That 'Lesbians'

We meet nine empowered women who talk about what it is like to be a lesbian...

<https://iview.abc.net.au/video/LE1921H006S00>

ABC Kid's Community 'Kids Ask About Gender' with Courtney Act

"Do you like being called a boy or a girl?"

<https://www.facebook.com/ABCKidsCommunity/videos/950512589045555>

Attend

BOY&GIRL at Brisbane's Powerhouse - Thu 19 thru Sat 28 August

The steamy one night stand you won't regret in the morning. So go on – pop the champagne and slip into a salacious new season of song, circus, and unapologetically bad behaviour. For ticketing and more information, see: <https://brisbanepowerhouse.org/whats-on/event/boygirl/>

Sunshine Coast Out 'n' Proud Festival – 21st August from 10:00 am until 9:00 pm

The Out 'n' Proud Festival is to be the premier Australian Music Festival with a significant positive cultural and economic impact felt throughout Australia.

The mission of the Out 'n' Proud Festival is to attract nationally and internationally acclaimed artists to the festival from a variety of fields while supporting and encouraging the professional artists within our community to expand the already thriving live music industry. The festival instills values that hope to present a diverse range of exceptional artists and providing audiences with engaging opportunities to discover inspiring new music. Also, the aim is to create accessible and welcoming environments, free of discrimination, and a pledge to treat all people with respect and dignity.

<https://www.outnproud.com.au>

Listen

ABC Conversations - Kyle Mewburn Growing up Transgender

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/conversations/kyle-mewburn-transition-transwoman-growing-up-transgender/13393152>

LGBTIQ+ Resources and Information

We at PFLAG+ Brisbane know that the health and wellbeing of our LGBTIQ+ loved ones is paramount in our journey as parents and friends. We also know that LGBTIQ+ people struggle more than the average population with mental health issues and suicide.

Therefore, we regularly provide links and phone numbers to our members to use as resources for themselves, their families, and their friends.

True Relationships & Reproductive Health (True) - True was established in 1972 and their goal is “to achieve substantial and positive social impact by improving reproductive and sexual health and promoting safe and respectful relationships. True achieves this through the delivery of expert clinical services, education, and counselling.”

<https://www.true.org.au/eshop#!/Gender-Sexuality-&-Diversity/c/31604019>

RUOK? Did you know that starting a conversation can change someone's life? You can ask, listen, encourage action, and check in... <https://www.ruok.org.au/lgbti-resources>

Open Doors - Open Doors Youth Service is Queensland's leading youth homelessness and support service enriching the lives of young people with diverse genders, sex, sexualities,

and bodies. They support high risk and at-risk young people in developmentally and culturally appropriate ways to provide individual, group-based, and family support to enhance connections to family, culture, and community.

<https://www.opendoors.net.au>

Headspace - Headspace provides mental health support for young people that includes information on a healthy headspace, bullying, depression, and anxiety, as well as information for parents and carers. <https://headspace.org.au/young-people/life-issues/sexuality-and-gender/> or <https://headspace.org.au/blog/blog/lgbtiqa-0/>

QLife - QLife provides Australia-wide anonymous, LGBTI peer support and referral for people wanting to talk about a range of issues including sexuality, identity, gender, bodies, feelings, or relationships.

<https://qlife.org.au/resources/qguides>

Lifeline (24/7) 13 11 14 or www.lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service (24/7) 1300 659 467 or www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Beyondblue (24/7) 1300 224 636 or www.beyondblue.org.au

SANE Australia 1800 18 SANE (7263)

ATAPS After-Hours Suicide Support Line 1800 859 585

PFLAG+ Brisbane Membership

PFLAG+ Brisbane is a not-for-profit organisation that is run by volunteers. One hundred percent of our funds, including your voluntary membership fees, go to improving our services to you, parents and friends of LGBTIQ+ people. We encourage individuals, families and corporations to pay a voluntary annual membership fee. We recommend \$25 per individual/family, \$100 for corporate membership, or whatever amount you can afford. While it is not compulsory, membership fees received to PFLAG+ Brisbane do help improve our electronic and printed resources, update our website, and cover other administration costs, among other expenses.

To pay your 2021 voluntary membership fees by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), PFLAG+ Brisbane's banking details are:

PFLAG+ Brisbane

BSB Number: 124 011

Account Number: 20238607

Reference: Your family name or corporation name

There are many ways to contact PFLAG+ Brisbane



<https://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au>



[@facebook.com/pflagbrisbane](https://www.facebook.com/pflagbrisbane)



<https://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/contact-us>



0400 767 832 for general information and support

With many thanks from the
PFLAG+ Brisbane Committee 2021

