



# PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter

January – February 2019

*Welcome to the first edition of the PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter for 2019. We hope that your holiday season was relaxing and enjoyable. The PFLAG Brisbane Committee wishes you all a happy new year. Additionally, we hope to see many of our old and new community members at upcoming bi-monthly meetings.*

## PFLAG Brisbane Community Meeting Dates for 2019

### Community Meeting Dates:

2<sup>nd</sup> February

6<sup>th</sup> April

8<sup>th</sup> June

3<sup>rd</sup> August

5<sup>th</sup> October

30<sup>th</sup> November

**Start Time:** 1:30 pm

**Location:** QUAC Brisbane, 30 Helen Street, Teneriffe QLD 4006

## **New Committee Members for PFLAG Brisbane**

Our Annual General Meeting in December 2018 welcomed new and returning members to the PFLAG Brisbane Committee. PFLAG Brisbane would like to thank the all the out-going committee members for their time and commitment. PFLAG is a non-profit business that relies on volunteers. Many thanks to those involved, past and present, who keep the PFLAG Brisbane branch active and available to friends and families in need of advice and support!

Returning President: Pasi Linsoto

New Vice-President: Linsey Nelson

Returning Treasurer: Margaret Parkhill

New Secretary: Sandra Janssen

Returning Events Coordinator: Linsey Nelson

Returning Community Information Officer: Beth Delbridge

Returning Librarian: Sandra Janssen

## **LGBTQI Events for 2019**

Brisbane is fortunate to be home to a large and active LGBTQI community. Many events occur in and around Brisbane throughout the year, providing opportunities for community awareness, education and fundraising. Please keep an eye on the PFLAG Brisbane newsletter for upcoming dates and venues in and around Brisbane during 2019. Additionally, if you become aware of an upcoming LGBTQI event in the area, please send it through to us and we may advertise it in our newsletter!

## **Mardi Gras in Sydney on 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival starts Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, culminating in a Pride Parade on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Over the years, Sydney's Mardi Gras has become a global beacon of diversity, and has embraced LGBTQI rights as they have come to the forefront of our news.

This year, events coordinators are expecting 12,000 participants and 300,000 spectators on the sidelines. Once again PFLAG Brisbane representatives will join forces with PFLAG Sydney on the 1.7-kilometre route through inner-Sydney's spectacular streets.

## Sex and Gender Education (Australia) Research Project

### ***SGD Life Over Suicide***

As many of the PFLAG community are aware, suicide is a relevant topic surrounding the LGBTQI population. Dr Tracey O’Keefe, a researcher at Sex and Gender Education, recently contacted PFLAG to publicise their current research project, ***SGD Life Over Suicide***. The research group are gathering information regarding the occurrence and reasons for suicide in sex and/or gender diverse Australian groups of people. SAGE is a campaign group that has existed since 2001 and Dr O’Keefe has worked in the related sex and/or gender diversity field for over forty-five years.

If you know a sex and/or gender diverse individual who has had suicidal thoughts, attempted or committed suicide due to issues surrounding their sex or gender identity, please consider participating in the research. More information can be found on the following link:

<https://sageaustralia.org/category/sgd-life-over-suicide-project/>

### Transgender Success Story

We all know that there is no shortage of information available on the internet regarding sex and gender diversity. While most links are not specifically promoted by PFLAG, you or your friends and family may like to view this individual’s transgender story on one or more of her social media platforms:

#### ***Charlie Martin – Transgender Race Car Driver***

Charlie Martin was born a male into a UK family. Charlie knew from the age of seven that he was really meant to be a she. Bravely, in 2012, Charlie transitioned from male to female. During this transition, Charlie’s career as a racing car driver, which is socially seen as a “manly activity”, was surprisingly successful due to family support and her and her family’s overall positive attitudes. Charlie is a great role model for the LGBTQI community, and her videos span the trials and tribulations of transitioning while working in a predominantly male-dominated environment.

This incredibly well-spoken, confident young woman is now living an authentic life as a female, highly-competitive race car driver. Find Charlie Martin’s successful transition stories on the BBC Sports app, as well as her YouTube channel, named *Go Charlie*.

## Ally - Definition

To combine or unite a resource or commodity with (another) for mutual benefit. Ally comes from the Latin word *alligare*, meaning "to bind to," like nations who are allies in wartime — they will act together, and protect one another.

A straight ally is a heterosexual person who supports equal civil rights, gender equality, LGBTQI social movements, and challenges homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. There are also some groups that unite the LGBTQI community to work together with straight allies.



*We wish you and your family and friends well, and hope to see you at an upcoming PFLAG Community meeting.*

*Pasi Linnosto  
PFLAG President*



### PFLAG Membership



PFLAG is organised and resourced by volunteers and 100% of our funds, including your membership fees, goes to improving our services to you and parents seeking support. We are encouraging people to ensure they pay their annual membership (\$25). Whilst paid membership is not compulsory to receive support, it does help us to improve PFLAG resources, keep our website up to date and help cover some of our general administration costs. Go to our membership webpage @ [www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/membership](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/membership) for more information.