



PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter

May – June 2019

*Welcome to our third PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter for 2019. The PFLAG Brisbane Committee hope that all our current and incoming **Community members** feel welcome, willing and accepting of their LGBTIQ friends and family members. If not, we hope to provide you with a place to safely air your difficulties, questions and concerns without judgement.*

PFLAG Brisbane Community Meeting Dates for 2019

8th June

5th October

3rd August

30th November

Start Time: 1:30 pm

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

LGBTI Liaison Officers- Queensland Police Services

During our last Community meeting on the 6th of April, we were fortunate to have Senior Sergeant Warrick Jackes from the Queensland Police Services LGBTI Liaison Program speak about the Program. In 1998, the Liaison Program was trailed in Brisbane's Metro South Region. In 2001, the Program went State-wide.

Firstly, in any urgent emergency - call **000**.

Next, to report a crime that has been committed - call **131 444** for Policelink.

Or, if you would like to wish to speak directly to an LGBTI Liaison Officer, please call Policelink and let them know that you wish to speak to the on-call officer. Lastly, to report an anonymous crime – call **1800 333 000** for Crime Stoppers. SSgt Jackes provided an amazing amount of resources for LGBTI people, friends and family. To appreciate this wealth of information, you must visit the QPS LGBTI Liaison web page for more information:

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/community/lgbti/default.htm>

Recent Events involving PFLAG Brisbane Participation

Mardi Gras in Sydney *2nd March 2019*



The 41st Mardi Gras Gay and Lesbian Parade in Sydney took place on the 2nd of March. This year's theme was *Fearless*, and there were approximately 175 floats and a record number of spectators.

Two PFLAG Brisbane Committee Members marched were fortunate enough to march with the 50 strong PFLAG Sydney/NSW cohort. Linsey Nelson (PFLAG Brisbane's Vice President and Events Coordinator) attended her third Mardi Gras marching for PFLAG this year, while Sandra Janssen (PFLAG Brisbane Secretary and Librarian) attended the parade for the first time. It was an

amazing, eye-opening experience full of acceptance and warmth, and both Committee members hope to attend next year's Mardi Gras in Sydney. All PFLAG Brisbane Committee and Community members are welcome to join us!

Queeriosity 2019 Wednesday 10th April, Tivoli Theatre, Fortitude Valley

Open Doors Youth Service sponsored a Youth Festival for LGBTIQ people aged under 25 years on the 10th of April at the Tivoli in Fortitude Valley. PFLAG Brisbane hosted a booth filled with literature and information for parents, co-workers, friends and other important people in an LGBTIQ young person's life. Four Committee members were present at the booth willing to share information and personal accounts, as well as PFLAG information. The event was well attended, and we hope to be invited back next year!



Boycott Brunei Rally in Brisbane Saturday 13th April 2019

Several PFLAG Brisbane members attended a local rally supporting a boycott of the Sultan of Brunei's hotels around the world. Rallies like the one pictured in front of the Brisbane Park Hotel near the Botanical Gardens, occurred at properties of the Sultan all around the world on Saturday the 13th of April.

Sadly, they were initiated due to brutal homophobic laws imposed by the Sultan that are now being enforced in Brunei. Under the new laws, gay sex and adultery can result in death by stoning. Dressing in clothing associated with a different sex may incur a fine and

imprisonment for up to three months. Even young children can be whipped for these offences.

These laws represent serious breaches of international human rights laws. Several international agencies, including the U.N.'s Human Rights Council, are in the process of reviewing Brunei's discriminatory and homophobic laws. *Source: SBS News online*



Upcoming LGBTI+ Event

Brisbane Powerhouse MELT: Festival of Queer Arts and Culture

“MELT is an invitation to celebrate Brisbane’s wonderfully diverse queer communities. The invitation is extended to citizens of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, ethnicities, abilities and artistic interests.” *Source: Brisbane Powerhouse website*

The festival runs from 27 June – 7 July, and includes visual art displays, cabaret, musical theatre, comedy and theatre acts, some of which are free. For more information, see the following website:

<https://brisbanepowerhouse.org/festivals/melt-festival-of-queer-arts-and-culture/>

Other LGBTIQ Information of interest

UN Free and Equal

The United Nations Human Rights organisation has a “Free and Equal” initiative for the fair treatment of the LGBTIQ community worldwide. Featured content on their website includes various articles and video clip regarding “Ending Bullying”, “Setting Global Business Standards for Equality”, and simply creating a world-wide acceptance of the LGBTIQ population. For more information, visit:

<https://www.unfe.org/>

Landmark transgender law reforms pass final vote in Tasmania

Transgender advocates have deemed recently passed Tasmanian legislation supporting transgender and gender diverse people “as the best in Australia and some of the most inclusive and equitable in the world”. For more information regarding this topic, visit

<https://www.qnews.com.au> (search transgender legislation Tasmania)

Source: QNews online, April 2019

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 for more information.

Membership Information

For those of you whom have not been able to pay their annual membership fee for 2019 in person or prefer to pay via EFT, PFLAG Brisbane's banking details follow:

BSB 124 001

Account number 20238607

See banner above for annual membership costs.

Many thanks for your ongoing support!