



PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter

August 2020

Welcome to our monthly PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter for August 2020. The PFLAG+ Brisbane Committee hopes that all our existing and incoming new community members feel welcome, willing and accepting of their LGBTI+ friends and family members. If not, we hope to provide you with a forum to safely air your concerns without judgement. We are a safe forum of like-minded people wishing to support our LGBTI+ family and friends.

Next PFLAG+ Brisbane Community Meeting Date:

Date: October 3rd 2020

Time: 1:30 pm until approximately 3:30

Guest Speaker: To be announced

Location: Online Zoom link to copy and paste into your Zoom app:

<https://zoom.us/j/92070322951>

Future PFLAG+ Brisbane Community Meetings

December 5th (AGM and Committee nominations)

PFLAG+ Brisbane News

Our Guest speaker for the 1st August PFLAG+ Brisbane meeting was Dr Fiona Bisshop. Dr Bisshop is a Brisbane GP who specialises in HIV, PrEP, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Sexual Health and Gender Medicine. It was our privilege to have Fiona as our guest.

Dr Bisshop is very generous with her time and energy and can be reached in many ways, via her website, her medical practice in Fortitude Valley called Holdsworth House Medical Brisbane, a blog, and as well on Instagram. Please access Dr Bisshop at the following website for more details: www.drionabisshop.com

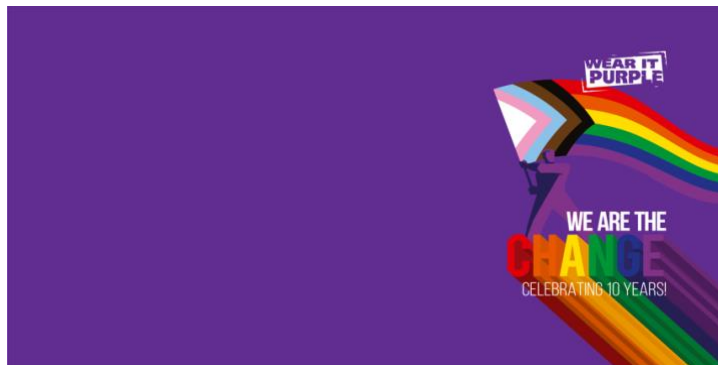
Fiona is the current President of **AusPATH**, an organisation whose primary aim is to promote the health of trans, gender diverse and non-binary people. AusPATH, or the Australian Professional Association for Trans Health, is Australia's peak body for professionals involved in the health, rights and well-being of trans, gender diverse and non-binary people. One of the organisation's goals is to create a comprehensive network and database of gender affirming GPs throughout in Australia. For more information regarding AusPATH, please refer to their website on: <https://auspath.org>

Additionally, Fiona introduced PFLAG members to **Equinox** based out of the University of Melbourne. This organisation hopes to create national guidelines for consistent treatment of transitioning, gender-diverse and non-binary **adults** through the medical process. Through the training of current GPs, and the introduction of these national guidelines into the Australian medical university curriculum, we hope to see more gender affirming doctors throughout Australia in the future. See more about this topic on: <https://equinox.org.au/resources/>



“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.” Melodie Beattie - Author

Wear It Purple Day Celebration on 28/08/2020



Wear It Purple is a volunteer advocacy group which strives to foster supportive, safe, empowering and inclusive environments for rainbow young people. Whether at school, university or in the workplace, LGBTIQ+ young people have the right to be proud of who they are. For more information on Wear It Purple Day, see: <https://www.wearitpurple.org/>

This year, Wear It Purple occurs online on Friday, 28th August. Two PFLAG+ Brisbane Committee members will participate in a Wear It Purple Day panel discussion with University of Queensland's Ally Network via ZOOM from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. The topic of this year's discussion will be "Growing up Queer in Australia".

The webinar will be available to **all PFLAG+ members** so be sure to find the event invitation on this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/growing-up-queer-in-australia-wear-it-purple-day-panel-tickets-114363638722>

Queensland is the first state to outlaw Gay Conversion Therapy

Health practitioners face up to 18 months in jail if they are found guilty of using LGBTIQ+ conversion practices. Read more here:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/queensland-has-become-the-first-australian-state-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy?cid=newsapp:socialshare:other>

Some survivors say the legislation is not far-reaching enough to be effective:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/queensland-outlawed-gay-conversion-therapy-survivors-say-the-ban-doesn-t-go-far-enough?cid=newsapp:socialshare:other>

Queensland Police Services LGBTI Liaison Officer Program Update

The Committee at PFLAG+ Brisbane are never surprised when our LGBTI Liaison Officer Program updates us on a new initiative... They seem to work tirelessly on the inclusion, welfare and well-being of our LGBTI+ community. For that effort, PFLAG+ Brisbane are grateful.

The most recent initiative is a new form for trans, gender diverse and non-binary members of the community to update their name and gender information within the QPS's database. In an interaction with the QPS, their correct name and pronouns will be used. The new ***Change of Personal Details*** form can be found at:

<https://forms.police.qld.gov.au/SexNameChange?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

An additional big thanks go out to Dylan Barrett from Qld Council for LGBTI Health (formerly known as QUAC), at <https://quac.org.au>. Additionally, Krissy Johnson and Gina Mather from ATSAQ (<https://atsaq.org.au>) contributed to creating the new form. PFLAG+ Brisbane thanks everyone who helped with this inclusive initiative.

Upcoming Celebrations and Days of Awareness – 2020

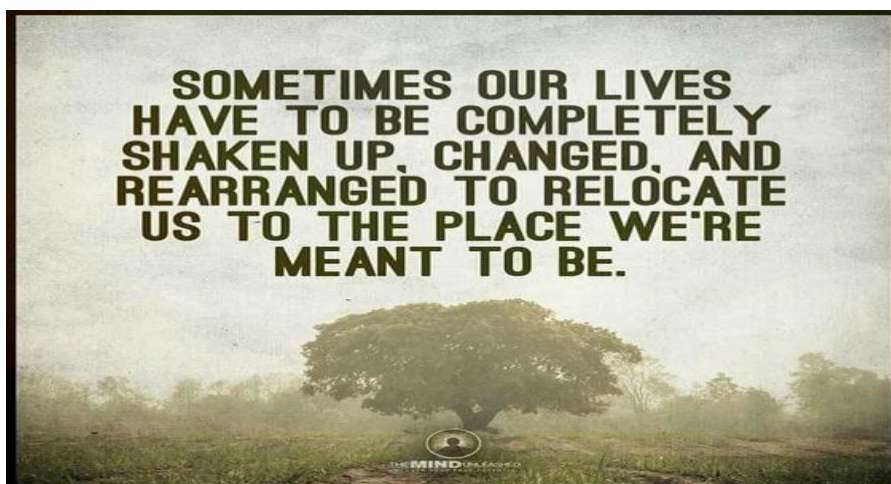
September - Brisbane Pride Month

23 September – Bi Visibility Day

November (date to be determined) – Brisbane Pride Parade

Transgender Month - November

AIDS Awareness Day - December 1



Other News

2021 Committee Roles - Training Opportunities

As most of you know, PFLAG+ Brisbane is a volunteer-run, non-profit organisation. We are parents and friends like you, whom are concerned about the future of our LGBTI+ loved ones. We have had an influx of new parents in the past year and are inviting them (YOU) to become active participants in the day to day operations of PFLAG+ Brisbane.

- 1) We are looking for a ***Treasurer-in-training*** to work with our lovely Margaret who has done a beautiful job of keeping our books for nearly the last twenty years. She is ready to retire from the role, and deservedly so!
- 2) Also, we are looking for a ***Secretary-in-training*** to work with Sandra in order to maintain our agendas, meeting notes and our confidential email list of active members and current resources to share with families and friends.
- 3) Lastly, there are plenty of tech savvy roles available to assist with PFLAG+ Brisbane's ***Online Publicity*** arm. We have a website (WordPress), a Facebook page to keep up to date, and a YouTube address which is underutilised. Those of us currently on the committee who are not so tech savvy would love your assistance.

All of these roles will come up for a vote at our December 2020 AGM. This is a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of a role before taking it on officially. No strings attached.

Contact PFLAG+ Brisbane

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

PFLAG+ Australia National Representative and Community Educator, Shelley Argent:



0409 363 335 or via email on



pflagbris@icloud.com

Be well and stay well, everyone...

With many thanks from the

PFLAG+ Brisbane Committee 2020



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.

For Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT), please use the following BSB and account numbers:

PFLAG Brisbane

BSB number: **124 011**

Account number: **20238607**