



PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter

August 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 9th of October**

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** 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, and our followers on Facebook will be informed regarding our Zoom access.*

Editor's Note: *This newsletter is sent out with the best intentions to inform and provide the most current information available. Please be aware that due to current and ever-changing COVID-19 restrictions, some events may be postponed or cancelled.*

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:

27th August Wear It Purple Day

Wear it Purple Day has been celebrated for over 10 years and represents a day of celebration and support. Its main goal is to foster a safe, empowering and inclusive environment for young rainbow people.

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

<https://mailchi.mp/minus18/adults-wear-it-purple-2021-launch?e=457afede30>

16-23rd September International Bisexual Awareness Week

Also known as *Celebrate Bisexuality Day*, International Bisexual Awareness Week was first officially observed on 23rd September 1999, at the International Lesbian and Gay Association Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. The need to maintain and increase visibility and inclusion for bisexual people is not only the right thing to do, but necessary for the overall health and wellbeing of the bisexual community. Biphobia, bi-erasure and not being out has been found to be associated with poorer mental health. The [Who I Am](#) study, the largest study of bisexual people in the world to date, led by La Trobe University, has examined why bisexual people experience higher rates of psychological distress than heterosexual and homosexual people. If interested, please read more on:

<https://www.prideinclusionprograms.com.au/news/theimportanceofbivisibility/>

<https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/events/bisexual-visibility-day>

Brisbane Local News

A Message from our President:

Hello to Everyone in our PFLAG+ Community.

I hope you are all doing ok despite the unpredictability and disruption that continues to challenge us with Covid Lockdowns. I started 2021 hoping to return to routines that I had missed so much last year. It's always such a buzz attending public events to network with other LGBTIQ allies in our community. Unfortunately, it seems we might have to continue to make the most of the Zoom Meeting for a while longer. There will be information in the newsletter and Facebook to keep you up to date.

Sadly, there have been a number of events like Trans Fair Day and Out and Proud at the Sunshine Coast that had to be postponed. Despite the frustration and disappointment that this causes, PFLAG+ has still managed to get out and about whenever possible. A real highlight was celebrating IDAHOBIT day with our families for a BBQ night. I'm hopeful that we will be able to enjoy these kinds of catch ups again on a regular basis in the not too distant future.

Some exciting news to report: Thanks to the introduction by one of our PFLAG+ Families, we have been collaborating with the amazing staff at Marsden State High School to help support LGBTIQ students in their community.

This school was voted "Best School in 2020" while the Principal, Andrew Peach, gained recognition as "Best Principal 2020". It has been so encouraging to see the positive interest we have received.

Last month, we were invited to host a Stall during a Footy match at the school. We hope to continue to attend these events where we can chat to students, staff and parents in a relaxed social setting. Our next event will be Wear It Purple Day on 27th August to raise awareness of Suicide Prevention, a devastating reality within our kids demographic.

I have been asked to join a 12 week program for the LGBTIQ students next term, which has been designed to help better support their emotional psychological and academic outcomes.

I am hoping there will be a spin-off effect from our involvement at Marsden which will extend to other schools in the area and eventually I hope to present similar programs more broadly to other schools in Brisbane and beyond. I would be grateful for any feedback from members of our PFLAG+community. If you would like to get involved or have any connections, resources within the education department that you feel would be helpful please let me know. Or even if you have some spare time and the desire to have a positive effect on the lives of our LGBTIQ kids whilst they're at school, we could really use your energy. Adolescence is tricky enough for straight students and school is where they spend the biggest proportion of their lives.

We all know how crucial it is for our beautiful rainbow kids to feel validated, accepted and included. Unfortunately for various reasons, there are still some Gaps between policies and culture in a lot of schools. I truly believe that if we make some much needed changes now, we stand a better chance of reducing a lot of mental anguish for our children, which means they have a better chance of reaching their greatest potential.

Jane Hopkins PFLAG+Brisbane President

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Jane Hopkins She/Her

President, PFLAG+ Brisbane
National Spokesperson, PFLAG Australia

Mobile: 0417 747 952

A New Logo for PFLAG+ Brisbane

We are so fortunate to belong to a voluntary organisation. Sometimes we run into individuals who are very generous by sharing their specialties. This time, we hit gold with a tech-savvy individual who created our new, official logo! Thank you so much... you know who you are.

Our new logo represents the full spectrum of homosexual and gender diverse people that we love and support. Sneak peek...



Linsey's Rainbow badges

20 years ago, Linsey's son turned 3 and asked for a pink bedroom and a pink dressing table. It was that moment when she knew then that she would be entering a wonderful rainbow world and was going to be a "PROUD MUM & ALLY". Linsey joined PFLAG+ Brisbane 10 years ago when her son came out as gay. She also has a daughter who identifies as queer, and another son who is straight. She has been an avid supporter of Brisbane Pride for the past few years, marching down Brunswick Street and helping with the the PFLAG+ Brisbane stall, and more recently has been providing COVID safe hugs at the "Free Mum Hugs" stall. Additionally, Linsey has marched in Sydney's Mardi Gras in the PFLAG Sydney group, and most recently, attended the COVID safe Mardi Gras, Sydney 2021 at the SCG.

PFLAG+ Brisbane would like to thank Linsey for her generous contributions to PFLAG and the LGBTIQ+ ally community. PFLAG+ Brisbane has recently purchased Linsey's rainbow badges to give away at future events that we plan to attend. If you or your group are interested in Linsey's personalised LGBTIQ+ badges, then please see the following:



Queens Ball: 60th Anniversary book

In 1962, members of Brisbane's 'camp' community decided to hold a ball. At the time homosexuality was illegal, and Queensland was renowned as the most conservative state of all. But years before Stonewall or Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a determined few friends held the first of what would become the longest-running continuous LGBTIQ+ event in the world, the Queens Ball. From the beginning, the Queens Ball was an inclusive and diverse event welcoming all the various tribes that would later become known as the LGBTIQ communities and their allies. This book follows the incredible history of the event, a yearly reminder and celebration of the resilience of Brisbane's communities.



<https://my.qnews.com.au/product/queens-ball/>

Picabeen Community Centre workshop activities for LGBTIQ+ seniors

Workshops from 2-4:00 pm for LGBTIQ+ Seniors

Wed 18 Aug

Thursday 19 Aug

Weds 1 Sept Thurs 2nd September

<https://www.facebook.com/Picabeen/posts/4670772342936199>

Website: <https://www.picabeen.org.au/>

Amnesty Queensland LGBTIQ+ Network

Did you know that Amnesty International has a Queensland branch which specifically targets LGBTIQ+ rights? They do... and they meet regularly. If you are interested in hearing what they are advocating, please see:

<https://www.facebook.com/qldlgbtqinetwork/>

Or email: qldlgbtqinetwork@gmail.com

Australian National News

2021 Census 'not recognising LGBTIQ+ people'

Research shows that LGBTIQ+ Australians experience worse social and economic outcomes than other Australians, with members of these communities reporting difficulties in accessing health, employment and other services because of stigma and discrimination. The

2021 Census was an opportunity to recognise and understand this population for the first time for state, territory, and federal governments to better meet their needs. Read more:

https://www.equal.org.au/2021_census

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/trans-people-say-they-feel-erased-by-this-year-s-census>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/it-s-2021-people-courtney-act-backs-call-for-lgbtq-australians-to-be-counted-in-census>

Ally Job Interview Tips

When anyone is unsure of another person's preferred pronouns in a job interview, how do handle it? This video is a great example how to act in the Ally-friendly workplace...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKelRmfg2s8>

Victorian Pride Centre

A new resource for face to face and on-line resources for LGBTIQ+ people:

<https://mailchi.mp/6729856ab65a/rainbow-road-eupdate-vol7-10904714?e=3bb2a5787f>

New Research Project – Employment Discrimination of Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals

Dylan Gregory is a research student at Edith Cowan University's School of Medical & Health Sciences in Western Australia. He is investigating the barriers for trans and GD people, including bullying, harassment, and access to appropriate toilet facilities.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the study, please contact Dylan Gregory directly at dgregor1@our.ecu.edu.au

International News

New Research Project – Seeking parents of adult LGBQ+ children with a diagnosed learning disability

Researchers are exploring the experiences and views of parents who have a son or daughter who has an intellectual disability, who also identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer+ (LGBQ+). The research is looking at how parent's experiences and views have changed over time, and what support has been useful for them and their son/daughter. Ultimately, the goal of the findings is to develop support within health and social care services for individuals with learning disabilities who identify as LGBQ+ to develop romantic and intimate relationships. If this research is of interest to you, please contact Caitlin on email C.Turner-10@sms.ed.ac.uk

PINK News – Tokyo Olympics

The Olympics in Tokyo have been out and proud for many participants this time around. See the details on:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/07/23/tokyo-olympics-queer-lgbt/>

Amnesty International - Defending Human Rights in Russia

Russian activist and artist Yulia Tsvetkova is on trial under Russia's 'gay propaganda' laws for posting her artwork on social media. Her drawings are of the female body and showing support for LGBTQIA+ families. Yulia faces up to 6 years in prison and is charged with "production and dissemination of pornographic materials'. For more information, please see the following link: <https://action.amnesty.org.au/act-now/iar-russia-yulia-tsvetkova?erid=0e42c9a8-99f6-4bf7-b81b-dd5665a45430&trid=0e42c9a8-99f6-4bf7-b81b-dd5665a45430&efndnum=000131182427>

UK's Channel 4 - Dating as a Trans Woman - First Dates

Dani is looking for Mr Right, but will 6ft 8in Aiden tick all the right boxes?

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?extid=SEO----&v=593837844401798>

Transgender school opens in Pakistan

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/pakistan-has-opened-its-first-state-run-school-for-transgender-people?cid=newsapp:socialshare:other>

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.

- 1) **Events Coordinator** – involves liaising with local events coordinators and organising PFLAG+ Brisbane members to assist with Market and Fair stalls at Pride Fair, Wear it Purple day, and other open days at universities, high schools and community events to promote our support network to new LGBTIQ+ families.
- 2) **Treasurer** – for 2021/2022 Financial year.
- 3) **Technology maintenance** – assist with basic website updates (WordPress) and weekly, scheduled Facebook updates.

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

