



# PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter

January 2020

Welcome to our first PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter for 2020. The new 2020 **PFLAG Brisbane Committee** hopes 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 questions and concerns...without judgement.

Additionally, you may see that we have made some recent changes... This newsletter is for January 2020, and our new Committee has decided to publish our newsletter **monthly** rather than bi-monthly. We hope that this change will make our newsletters more current, easier to read, and up-to-date for all our members.

## Committee Members for 2020

President – **Jane Hopkins**

Vice-President – **Toni Wood** (*nominated, and to be voted in at our February meeting*)

Returning Secretary – **Sandra Janssen**

Returning Treasurer – **Margaret Parkhill**

Returning Publicity Officer – **Sandra Janssen**

Facebook and Website management – **Position(s) still open**

Events Coordinator – **Position(s) still open**

Returning Literature and Education Liaison Officer – **Beth Delbridge**

Librarian (part of Education Liaison role) – **Toni Wood**

Committee members from the public – **Robert Janssen and Lisa McDermott**

Lifelong PFLAG Brisbane Committee Member, Community Educator and National Spokesperson for PFLAG Australia – **Shelley Argent**

## **PFLAG Brisbane Community Meeting Dates for 2020**

**Time:** 1:30 pm until approximately 3:30

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

**Scheduled Dates: February 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Guest Speaker Kristine Hand, an LGBTI Educator from True Relationships** <https://www.true.org.au/>

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> (AGM and Committee nominations)**

## **Update on “Religious Freedom” Bill Debate in Parliament**

### **Revamped religious discrimination bill is still ‘unacceptable’**

*More religious organisations will be permitted to discriminate in hiring and firing staff under the government’s revised religious discrimination bill.*

just.equal spokesperson Rodney Croome said the new bill allows a broader range of organisations to discriminate against LGBTIQ+ people and others. Among the 11 changes are provisions allowing religious charities, hospitals, aged care facilities and accommodation

providers to hire and fire based on faith. The reworked bill also allows camps and conference centres run by religious organisations to refuse bookings from groups they believe are incompatible with their faith. “The government heard the LGBTIQ+ community say we want the bill to allow less discrimination. It gave us precisely the opposite,” Croome said. (Source: QN Magazine online 10 December 2019)

## Recent Draft Bill Changes

To see a copy of the second draft Bill’s recent changes, press Control and Click on the following link:

<https://www.ag.gov.au/Consultations/Documents/religious-freedom-bills-second-draft/summary-of-amendments-to-the-bills-since-the-first-exposure-draft.pdf>

## What Can You Do to Support our LGBTIQ+ Community from Religious Discrimination?

- 1) Read about the draft Bill, then, feel free to sign and share the petitions with others. They are available from the following resources:

**Equality Australia** at <https://bit.ly/2YM0KwV>, and

**just.equal**

[https://www.equal.org.au/religious\\_freedom\\_or\\_a\\_new\\_second\\_class\\_citizen](https://www.equal.org.au/religious_freedom_or_a_new_second_class_citizen)

- 2) Write to Members of Parliament, encouraging them to vote against the Bill from what you have learned. They can be reached on:  
[https://aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/](https://aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/)
- 3) Make your submission to the second draft of the Bill **before 31 January 2020**. Write Attorney-General Christian Porter at [FoRConsultation@ag.gov.au](mailto:FoRConsultation@ag.gov.au), or find more information on the Government’s Consultation page at <https://bit.ly/2P7Fu1g>
- 4) **Attend the protest on 18<sup>th</sup> January** regarding the so called “Religious Freedom” draft bill. It will be held at noon at Brisbane’s Speaker’s Corner, George Street, Brisbane 4000.

## [LGBTIQ+ Media Items and Other News of Interest](#)

### **Watch: *You Can't Ask That* on ABC iview**

This award-winning documentary series created by the ABC has several shows of interest to inform us about, among other topics, the prejudice and discrimination affecting the diverse and often marginalised LGBTIQ+ Australian population. Have a look at the following shows that may be of interest to you and your family They can be accessed for viewing on the ABC iview App:

**Series 1: Transgender**

**Series 2: Children of Same-Sex Parents**

**Series 3: Drag**

**Series 4: Intersex**

### **Read: ABC News Article – Raising a non-binary child**

Talk about children is common and usually easy, but for us it requires a never-ending decision where all the options are draining, write Natasha and Liss, the parents of a non-binary child. Check out the article by following the link below (highlight, Ctrl, Click to open link): [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-19/australia-talks-what-its-like-to-parent-a-nonbinarychild/11714740?utm\\_source=sfmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=&utm\\_campaign=%5bnews\\_sfmc\\_newsletter\\_am\\_df\\_in1%5d%3a8935&user\\_id=255bedeb3780335ac5b55e5976fb1c0c168fa4d8f372ecbda7fa583971e07b86&WT.tsrc=email&WT.mc\\_id=Email%7c%5bnews\\_sfmc\\_newsletter\\_am\\_df\\_in1%5d%7c8935ABCNewsnewsletter\\_topstories\\_articlelink](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-19/australia-talks-what-its-like-to-parent-a-nonbinarychild/11714740?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_content=&utm_campaign=%5bnews_sfmc_newsletter_am_df_in1%5d%3a8935&user_id=255bedeb3780335ac5b55e5976fb1c0c168fa4d8f372ecbda7fa583971e07b86&WT.tsrc=email&WT.mc_id=Email%7c%5bnews_sfmc_newsletter_am_df_in1%5d%7c8935ABCNewsnewsletter_topstories_articlelink)

### **Listen: ABC Podcast - *Conversations* with Sarah Kanowski**

*The ferocious power of Rebekah, aired 14 November 2019*

Rebekah and Greg gave birth to twin boys in 2000. Son George knew from an early age that he should be female. Rebekah wrote a book about their experience called *About a Girl*.

## Queensland Community Honoured at 2019 Trans Awards

As part of Trans Awareness Week, which is recognised each November, several Queenslanders have been awarded for their work raising the visibility of transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people. You may recognise some of the names as past speakers, and we hope to have a few more of these community heroes speak at upcoming meetings!

**Special Achievement Award – Joe Debattista** was awarded for his advocacy in the trans community health sector.

**Young Trans Person of the Year Award – Johnny Valkyrie**

**Trans Ally of the Year and Medical Professional of the Year - Dr Fiona Bisshop**, from Holdsworth House Medical Centre, Fortitude Valley

**Service Provider of the Year – Open Doors Youth Service**

**Trans Group of the Year – Wendybird** *(Source: QNews 18 November 2019)*

## [Upcoming Events for 2020](#)

**Sydney Mardi Gras and Parade** on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February

**Transinvisibility** at UQ on 23<sup>rd</sup> March

**Queeriosity - April**

**Wear It Purple – August**

**Brisbane Pride – September**

**Trans month - November**

**AIDS Awareness Day - December 1**

**There are many ways to contact PFLAG Brisbane (as well as PFLAG Australia):**



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



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



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



0400 767 832 (general information and support)

**PFLAG Australia National Representative, Shelley Argent:**



0409 363 335 or via email on



[pflagbris@icloud.com](mailto:pflagbris@icloud.com)

*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](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/membership) for more information.

For those of you whom have not been able to pay their annual membership fee for 2019/2020 in person or prefer to pay via EFT, PFLAG Brisbane's banking details are:

**BSB 124 001 Account number 20238607**