



PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter

July 2020

Welcome to our monthly PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter for July 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.

Next PFLAG+ Brisbane Community Meeting Date:

Date: **August 1st**

Time: 1:30 pm until approximately 3:30

Guest Speaker: **Dr Fiona Bisshop from Holdsworth House**

Location: Online Zoom link (copy and paste into Zoom):

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

Future PFLAG+ Brisbane Community Meetings

(Maybe face-to-face or on Zoom... it just depends on where we are with COVID-19)

October 3rd

December 5th (AGM and Committee nominations)

PFLAG+ Brisbane News

Gender Identity - Free Seminar for Community members and LGBTI+ workers

The Queensland Children's Gender Service is hosting a free seminar for the community and workers on 24th August from 8:30 until noon entitled "***Gender Identity – Exploring the intersection of health and education outcomes with human rights***". It takes place face to face or on ZOOM and you must register in advance. Please find more information on the following link: <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/training-gender-identity-health-edu-human-rights/>

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 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.
- 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 YouTube address and a Facebook page to keep up to date. Those of us who are not 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.

Religious Discrimination Video

COVID has taken over many people's minds and the present government's time is consumed by keeping under control. However, when COVID becomes a non-issue, what then? To many the concern will be the rejuvenation of the proposed Religious Discrimination Bill will once again be a matter of urgency for the government.

This Bill is a spinoff of our sons and daughters gaining the right to marriage. Please work with me to ensure your children/child and my child keep the rights they presently enjoy. For more information, please see our website updates below.

PFLAG+ Brisbane Website Resources Updated

Our website address is <https://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/>

Shelley Argent, our PFLAG+ Australia representative, has created several new resources to share on our website. They include new **publications and e-booklets** (see the site's Resources tab):

- 1) Rural families
- 2) Sexual and gender-diversity is not a choice
- 3) Common sense tips for those working with LGBTI+ people
- 4) Information for parents with transgender sons or daughters (gender dysphoria)

In Shelley's words, "Terminology has been changed, emotions have changed and so have the needs of many with LGBTIQ+ loved ones, which is great... Parents are now more concerned about their children's needs. And, because of improved rights, people who come into contact on a daily basis need to be made aware that discrimination and bullying is now illegal." Thank you, Shelley and the other LGBTI+ allies who have helped make these changes.

Additionally, there is a new welcome letter as well as a new history write up and video of PFLAG+ Queensland under the tab **About Us** provided by Shelley. In the words of Shelley, "It was a great pleasure to acknowledge the Coral-lea Benzie, the mother before me who organised PFLAG during a difficult time in Queensland. Coral-lea paved the way for me, as I have paved the way for others."

Also, the current situation regarding the **Religious Discrimination Bill** is addressed in our newly updated website. "If the bill is passed into legislation our LGBTIQ+ loved ones will be affected in a bad way, as will those with disabilities, those of colour, different races, and unmarried women with children. There is nothing positive about this Bill", according to Shelley.

Last, but not least, the 2020 PFLAG+ Brisbane Committee would like to send enormous thanks to Andy, Director and CEO of **Big Budda Boom**, for providing PFLAG+ Brisbane with audio, visual and website marketing for nearly the last 20 years. Amazing work Andy and Big Budda Boom! Find their great services on www.bigbuddaboom.com.au

QLIFE Resources

Rather than re-invent the wheel, PFLAG+ Brisbane is always looking out for other legitimate resources to recommend and utilise online. One of those is QLIFE, an anonymous and free LGBTI+ peer support and referral resource for people in Australia wanting to talk about sexuality, identity, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships.

QLIFE has a phone service from 3:00 pm until midnight every day. They also host a Webchat, which LGBTI+ individuals can register for and attend. There are several QGuides for

people/professionals working with LGBTI+ people, including the topics of Bisexuality, Coming Out, Gender Diversity, Suicide Prevention and a Glossary of new terminology.

Please visit QLIFE and see their offerings of support at: <https://qlife.org.au/>

True Relationships

True Relationships has many free resources regarding sexuality that may be of interest to our readers. They have written, printable resources on Communicating About Sexuality; Cultural Identity, Sexuality and Gender Identity and Sexual Development in Early Childhood.

Please visit their website and utilise their free resources: <https://www.true.org.au/>

Mapping Sexual Orientation Laws Around the World

The following link will give you an insight to the sexual orientation laws around the world for 2019. Check it out, as it is very interesting how advanced Australia is compared to the rest of the world. https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA_Sexual_Orientation_Laws_Map_2019.pdf

Rainbow Families Storytime Puppet Shows for Kids Aged 3 to 7

Enjoy Rainbow Families Storytime with Larrikin Puppets, featuring two stories from the children's book 'We Can't All Be the Same (and it would be boring if we were!)' by Glenn Martin. Ideal for kids aged 3-7 and their families, the stories support and encourage empathy, diversity, equality, acceptance and love. See more about Storytime with Larrikin Puppets on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/NG622bhBtQ8>
Or their website: <https://www.larrikinpuppets.com.au>

The Prescription for a Healthy Life



LGBTIQ+ Media Items and Other News of Interest

Watch

Disclosure: *Trans Lives on Screen* is a new Netflix documentary, which came out in mid-June. The documentary explores the history of how transgender people have been portrayed in the media since the 1950s. It gains credibility by interviewing current day transgender men and women who are media writers, directors, producers and actors, while seeking their views on how transgender people have progressed through the years in their media portrayals. It is a Los Angeles- and New York-based documentary but shows a positive progression in the international view of the transgender community.

Since reviewing the book ***Boy Erased*** in this newsletter a few years back, Netflix has released the 2018 movie by the same name which is based on the book. It is a true story about a Baptist family in the USA regarding religious conversion therapy. The young homosexual man who wrote the story went through the Baptist religious conversion therapy and, fortunately, came out the other end as a gay man whom is living happily in New York with his husband. In many places, this type of therapy has been outlawed due to its controversial nature.

Read

Fairest by Meridith Talusan (Memoir). As a young child, Marc Talusan was enthralled with the music of Lea Salonga upon first listen, connecting with Salonga's lyric "I am the girl with golden hair." Writes Talusan: "But by the time she sang, 'What a joy! What a life! What a chance!' a few moments later, I had already returned to my own body, the body of a boy in the Philippines who just happened to have her hair. My future may hold riches, but I would not live it as a beautiful woman."

The Gravity of Us by Phil Stamper (Youth Fiction). Teen boys find love when their parents' NASA mission uproots their lives in this sweet debut perfect for Adam Silvera fans. As a successful social media journalist with half a million followers, seventeen-year-old Cal is used to sharing his life online. But when his pilot father is selected for a highly publicized NASA mission to Mars, Cal and his family relocate from Brooklyn to Houston and are thrust into a media circus.

Listen

Be sure to listen to Brene Brown's ***Unlocking Us*** podcast interview with Laverne Cox, a powerful transgender woman speaking about representation, advocacy and the power of love. She also reflects upon her new production on Netflix, ***Disclosure*** as described above.



Upcoming Celebrations and Days of Awareness - 2020

14 July – International Non-Binary Pride Day

Last Friday in August - Wear It Purple

September - Brisbane Pride Month

23 September – Bi Visibility Day

Transgender Month - November

AIDS Awareness Day - December 1

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**

**SOMETIMES OUR LIVES
HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY
SHAKEN UP, CHANGED, AND
REARRANGED TO RELOCATE
US TO THE PLACE WE'RE
MEANT TO BE.**

