

PFLAG Brisbane

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER



WELCOME!

At our last meeting we had several new parents attend and we do hope we made them welcome and hoped to ease some of their concerns. **Supporting families is our primary goal.**

Many thanks, to Rev Chris Holden from Uniting Church at New Farm who came along to discuss marriage equality from a Christian perspective. It was a pleasure to have him at our meeting.

QLD AIDS Council Meeting Room

We will no longer be able to put our meeting dates on the website for the year ahead. So please take note of the dates from the newsletter or just check the website.

The problem is we can now only book the meeting room 3 months ahead and because we have bi monthly meetings it may make life interesting setting dates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MORNING TEA AT OPEN DOORS

Open Doors – is holding a morning tea for their mums and would like some PFLAG parents to come along and add their support.

When: **Saturday, 20th June**

Time: **10am**

Where: **5 Green Square Close, Fortitude Valley**

For more info please call:
(07) 3257 7660





The Queen's Ball 2015

This year's 54th Annual Queen's Ball did not disappoint - It was an evening full of colour, laughter and lots of dancing with this year's theme being a tribute to the glam era of disco recreating the famous New York nightclub Studio 54.

Whilst no one can deny that the Ball is simply a fabulous night out its primary objective is to formally recognise and celebrate the hard work and outstanding achievements by various people in the LGBTIQ community. It was inspiring to attend the Ball in this respect and be among those to express our gratitude to these individuals who were honored with awards on the night.

This year's **Lifetime Achievement Award** went to **John Ebert**, who along with his partner of 45 years **John Stafford** helped found the Queensland AIDS Committee in 1984. It was truly heartening to hear all of this man's accomplishments in a time when being a gay rights activist (let alone gay) was, to put it mildly, a tough swim up stream. Thank you to both the Johns for making life better for our sons and daughters!

Marriage Equality Update

Shelley Argent gives us a quick up date about her recent trip to the capital

I flew to Canberra on 1st and 2nd June for meetings with MP's and Senators who are either undecided or against marriage equality for our sons and daughters.

I delivered 40kg of letters from a small campaign called, the **"2 Million Letter Campaign"**. This involved two large heavy suitcases, but was worth the time and effort. They were delivered on the day Bill Shorten introduced his Private Members Bill into parliament.

Secondly, I am considering taking a **busload of parents to Canberra 7th September**. If you are interested please let me know. If you have contacts that you think will be helpful to make this happen please make contact first on email pflagbris@bigpond.com

I still need to organise a few things before I can ensure this trip goes ahead however, watch this space for more updates.





International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) Day

This was a great day, held at Queens Park on 17th May. There were quite a few stalls with information, music and camaraderie.

PFLAG had a stall where we had 150 letters written to go to Canberra which was great. We also thank the volunteers from Brisbane Pride for sharing their tent and helping with the letter writing.

This year, for the first time a rainbow flag flew over King George Square and the Story Bridge glowed in rainbow colours. These two actions highlighted the need for minimisation of homophobia in society.

And, thanks to Phil Brown who initiated both of these events.

PFLAG Survey

Have you seen the survey about PFLAG Brisbane?

We would like to know from you how we can improve our service to families or, the changes you may like to see in the future.

If not and you have thoughts and ideas about how to improve the group please let us know by following the link below. Just copy and paste the link into your browser search window and it will take you directly to our survey.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Pflag_Brisbane



Working Bee Mail Out

We will soon begin a mail out to school based Health Nurses, School Counselors and Health Practitioners in QLD regional areas and libraries.



So we will be having **two working bees** to get this completed. The first one will be on **Saturday, 27th June commencing at 10am** and the second one will be held **Saturday, 4th July at 10am**.

We will be doing this at my home, so if you would like to help, please contact me initially at pflagbris@bigpond.com for my address.

Sportsman's Hotel - Fundraising Event for PFLAG

We are asking people to please consider coming along to this event. It should be good fun. The Sportsman's Hotel is very safe and family friendly of LGBTI.

The event is called, "**Australia has Drag Queens**" and will be held on the **30th August**, Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill

More info closer to the time.



Next PFLAG Meeting

At our next meeting we won't have a guest speaker. It was discussed a few meetings ago that it would be good to just sit and discuss generally issues that parents may want to raise. So if you have any questions about LGBTI come along and we can all discuss.

Date: **Saturday 18th July**

Time: **1.30pm at 30 Helen Street, Teneriffe**



Brisbane Pride Festival Date Announced!



Saturday, 19th September

Homophobia Free Sport

May 22nd Qld Rugby Union confirmed to their fans and Qld Red fans that homophobia is not to be condoned at their games.

They believe sport should be about inclusion and as one would expect want their games to be family friendly.

Some sporting codes travelled to Canberra to sign up to a policy that supports minimising homophobia both on and off of the field. But some have done very little to actually further the campaign. **Homophobia like racism needs to be named and not condoned.**



Safe School Policy

We are very thankful to the new Qld Government that a Safe School Policy is about to be introduced into State Schools.

This will ensure that our LGBTI children will be safe while being educated.

This policy will be especially beneficial to trans* students because it lays out guidelines explaining the dress code, name, which toilet etc.

If your child goes to a private school, the Education Department cannot enforce this policy. So my suggestion is if your child is being treated unfairly, meet with the Principal to discuss what can be done, and if that doesn't work consider taking a lawyer (or a letter from a lawyer) to outline legalities to the school.

FPLAG MEMBERSHIP



PFLAG MEMBERSHIP FORM FORM

First Name:

Last name:

Email:

Type of membership

Individual/Family ☐ \$25

Corporate ☐ \$100

*Please make checks payable to: **PFLAG Brisbane**
Address: **PO Box 1372, Eagle Farm BC QLD 4009***

*Or, you can transfer your membership directly into our bank account **Bank of Queensland**
BSB: 124 011 Account#: 20 238 607*

Please reference your transfer as "PFLAG Membership" and your name

Would you like to receive e-newsletter? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like to receive emails letting you know about upcoming PFLAG events? Yes ☐ No ☐

We would like to know how we could improve our visibility to families...

How did you hear about us?

Friend <input type="checkbox"/>	Our website <input type="checkbox"/>	School/ School Counsellor <input type="checkbox"/>
Relative <input type="checkbox"/>	GP/Doctor's rooms <input type="checkbox"/>	Another PFLAG member <input type="checkbox"/>
Another organisation <input type="checkbox"/>	Which organisation?	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Please let us know how you heard about us?	