



# PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter

## September – October 2019

Welcome to our fifth PFLAG Brisbane Newsletter for 2019. The **PFLAG Brisbane Committee** hope 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 difficulties, questions and concerns without judgement.

## Upcoming PFLAG Brisbane Community Meeting Dates for 2019

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

**30<sup>th</sup> November** (including AGM)

**Start Time:**

1:30 pm

**Location:**

QUAC Brisbane, 30 Helen Street, Teneriffe QLD 4006

## Shelley Argent – National Spokesperson for PFLAG

During our last Community meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, we were fortunate to have National PFLAG Spokesperson, Shelley Argent, share her story with us. Shelley's new book, ***Just a Mum***, outlines the story of her son coming out as homosexual in Brisbane during the mid-90s. The book follows Shelley's journey from motherhood to becoming a nation-wide LGBTIQ+ activist.

Shelley will be sharing the PFLAG Brisbane booth at the upcoming Brisbane Pride Fair on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September at New Farm Park. Please stop by the booth and introduce or re-introduce yourselves to her. It is also an opportunity to pick up a copy of her new book for \$25.

## Recent PFLAG Participation

### **Rally in Queen's Garden, Brisbane and March in CBD**

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of August, the LGBTIQ+ community came together for a rally against the proposed bill based on the Religious Freedom Review. The proposed legislation will allow religious exemptions to allow for discrimination against LGBTIQ+ children in schools and adults in the workplace.

Shelley Argent spoke to the rally participants, and requested that all PFLAG members, LGBTIQ+ people and allies write a letter to the PM and their local MP expressing grave concern over this proposal to allow discrimination in the name of "religious freedom". For more information on the letter writing campaign, please contact Shelley via [pflagbris@icloud.com](mailto:pflagbris@icloud.com).



### **Wear It Purple Day at QUT**

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August, PFLAG Brisbane participated in Wear It Purple Day at QUT Garden's Point. Wear it Purple is an annual LGBTIQ+ awareness day for young people and their allies. At QUT, the day is organised by the QUT Guild, a student run organisation. PFLAG Brisbane provided a booth with many informational resources and a listening ear for the LGBTIQ+ community and allies at QUT. Well done, PFLAG volunteer mums for making this a rewarding and fun day!



## Other LGBTIQ Information of Interest

### Religious Freedom/Discrimination Discussion in Parliament

This hot topic was Shelley Argent's main focal point in the recent Rally and March on 17<sup>th</sup> August (see article above). Additional information on the topic can be found in the August issue of **QN Magazine** (LGBTIQ+ News):

<https://qnews.com.au/pm-scott-morrison-holds-multi-faith-discussion-on-religious-freedom/>



**A new book** out entitled ***Growing up Queer in Australia*** edited by Australian comedian and writer Benjamin Law is available from the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. For more details follow the link:

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Growing-Up-Queer-Australia-Benjamin-Law/9781760640866?ref=grid-view&qid=1565082697820&sr=1-3>



Click the link below to find an **interesting infographic** on how to act in relation to transgender people in the workplace:

<https://www.catalyst.org/research/flip-the-script-transgender-in-the-workplace-actions/>



The following link from a recent *"Insight"* (SBS Episode 15, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019) interviews **Transgender Teens**. It is very interesting and informative viewing:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/insight/tvepisode/transgender-teens>



New Research... **No Single Gene Associated with Being Gay:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-49484490>

## Upcoming PFLAG Events

### **21<sup>st</sup> September - Brisbane Pride Parade and Fair**

PFLAG Brisbane will participate in the Pride Parade and Fair. Both Committee and Community members are encouraged to participate! Please contact Events Coordinator/Acting President, Linsey Nelson, for more information regarding participation ("Linsey-Jane Nelson" [linseyjane66@gmail.com](mailto:linseyjane66@gmail.com)).

For further information on the Brisbane Pride March and following Fair in general, see the following link:

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

### **5<sup>th</sup> October PFLAG Brisbane Meeting Speakers:**

#### **Dr Josephine Inkpin, Australia's first openly trans priest, and her partner Rev Penny Jones**

We are delighted to announce our next speakers, particularly considering the recently proposed Religious Freedom/Discrimination Legislation. Dr Jo Inkpin and her partner Reverend Penny Jones (Anglican Church of Australia) will join us for a talk and Q&A session regarding their story, as well as the current climate surrounding LGBTIQ+ people, faith and organised religion. Please see the following link for some background on Jo and Penny:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-23/australias-first-transgender-priest/9477100>

## Annual General Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November

We are looking for a few new Community members to step up and learn about the PFLAG Brisbane Committee roles. We will provide guidance, support and information to any Community members who are new to the group. Helping PFLAG Brisbane is a fulfilling and rewarding activity, which supports our LGBTIQ+ children and friends.

Some of the roles available for 2020 include:

**Secretary** – meeting agendas, communications/correspondence, taking Committee meeting minutes and maintaining our contacts lists

**Treasurer-in-training** – working with current Treasurer for the year in order to learn the role for an upcoming Treasurer position in 2020/2021

**Publicity Officer (can be split into two or more roles):**

- 1) **Digital** – Facebook and Website administration, management and upkeep
- 2) **Newsletter support** – assist with collecting information and photos to publish in our bi-monthly newsletter

**Events support (not an official Committee role)** – helping Events Coordinator with setting up/breaking down booth at local events, manning booth, coordinating participation

*Remember that our nominations take place at our AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> November.* Please consider yourself for any of these positions. We hope to share the Committee's workload among several people. We are all volunteers and have active lives outside of PFLAG, so we take that fact into consideration. Please contact Linsey ([linseyjane66@gmail.com](mailto:linseyjane66@gmail.com)), Sandra ([robsanjan@hotmail.com](mailto:robsanjan@hotmail.com)), or any other Committee member if you have any questions.

## A Big Thank You!

Lastly, many thanks to the lovely Community members of PFLAG Brisbane (including parents, friends and allies).

*All the best from the PFLAG Brisbane Committee,*

*Linsey Nelson*

Acting President, Vice President and Events Coordinator

*Sandra Janssen*

Secretary, Librarian, Newsletter, Membership Contact

*Margaret Parkhill*

Treasurer

*Beth Delbridge*

Literature Coordinator

*Pasi Linnosto*

President (currently away)

*Antoneta Nunez-de-Linnosto*

Past Secretary

*Shelley Argent, OAM*

National PFLAG Representative for Australia



#### 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.

#### Membership Information

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

**BSB: 124 001      Account number: 20238607**

See banner above for annual membership costs. Many thanks for your ongoing support!