



# PFLAG Brisbane

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Newsletter December 2012

## Keeping Families Together

Hi Everyone,

It's hard to believe that the year is nearly at an end. It is hard to sum up our progress this year. As Shelley mentions in her president's report 'this year ... in Queensland we had great celebration with the legislation for Civil Partnerships being introduced and quickly felt great sadness and anger with the LNP repealing this same legislation'. It's hard to know if we have gone forwards or backwards this year in our quest to gain equal rights for our LGBTI children. The change of government in Queensland has certainly changed the game for us. 2013 will challenge us anew I suspect. Personally, I was deeply saddened to hear a support worker at Open Doors (a youth service that provides support to young people who identify as LGBTI) say that it was now a really tough time for minorities in Qld. since the new government had come to power. In just a few months the service had seen an increase in young people needing their services and an increase in homophobic incidents being reported by the same young people. As a mum it just breaks my heart to think that more young people could be cast out onto the streets by their families just because they are LGBTI. I struggle with how as a civilised society we can let that happen. Clearly there is a lot more work for us to do to educate others and advocate for the rights of our own and other children. Hopefully the Newman government will listen and honour the basic human rights of our children. As the craziness and fabulousness of the Christmas season approaches I wish you and your families peace and happiness and much love to share.  
Cheers Pip :-)



### Contact Us

Mail: PO Box 1372  
Eagle Farm BC Qld 4009

Ph: 07 3017 1739

Mobile Helpline  
0400 767 832

E: [info@pflagbrisbane.org.au](mailto:info@pflagbrisbane.org.au)

W: [www.pflagbrisbane.org.au](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au)



The PFLAG office will open in mid January.

If you, or someone you know needs help please phone our Helpline on 0400 767 832.

Other services that are available are:

- Lifeline - 13 11 14 (24 hours)
- Beyond Blue - 1300 22 4636
- Kids Help Line - 1800 55 1800 (24 hours)
- Gay Line and Lesbian Line - 1800 184 527 (7 to 10pm)

**Next PFLAG Meeting - 2nd February 2013**  
**30 Helen Street Teneriffe 1.30 pm**



# President's Report

First I would like to thank the committee for their support and eagerness to bring change and to be active in the LGBTI community. It has been another big year with plenty of things happening.

In Queensland we had great celebration with the legislation for Civil Partnerships being introduced and quickly great sadness and anger with the LNP repealing this same legislation.

From this action we wrote several letters to the LNP, spoke at rallies, on the media and ran a newspaper advertisement condemning their actions. The adverts got us national media coverage with such programs as The Drum and The Project plus several radio stations.

We produced and published a new resource, Opening the Door, with the DVD of parents' stories. I think this resource is as good as any other PFLAG group's world wide. We also produced and published a resource for parents with transgender children, as well as a brochure for parents to help them recognise depression and suicide prevention.

There was a good roll up of volunteers for Pride Fair Day.

We are noticing there isn't the demand for resources as there used to be at days like this. Most people just come up for a chat and to say thank you.

A group of PFLAG members from Brisbane went to Mardi Gras in March which was great fun.

I travelled to Wollongong and Canberra several times as well as Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Shepparton and Albury-Wodonga for rallies, presentations and workshops.

We wrote submissions about marriage equality for both the Senate and the House of Representatives and I was then invited to speak at both inquiries. We also wrote letters to both the State and Federal governments on marriage equality (civil partnerships in Qld.), especially targetting the Federal Opposition and their ability to vote freely.

I also attended a Transgender conference

in Cairns.

This is not a complete report of what has been achieved this past year but it does give clear picture that we have certainly not been idle in 2012.



Shelley Argent  
President PFLAG Brisbane 2012  
National Spokesperson

## 2013 PFLAG Brisbane Committee

President: Donna

Vice President: Shelley

Secretary: Janet

Treasurer: Lynn

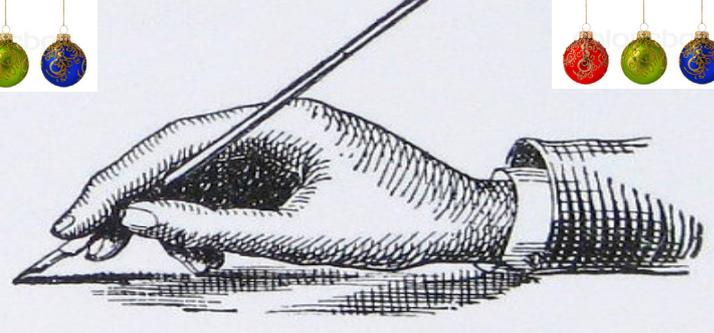
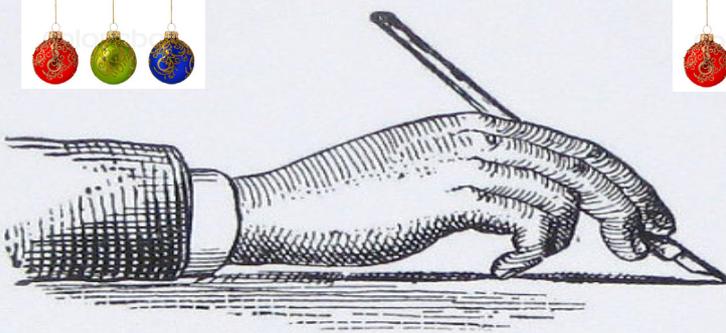
Committee Members:

Gail, Una, Pip, Deb, Maryanne, Beth

**Advertising space is available in our newsletter and on our website.**

**Contact Shelley**

**[info@pflagbrisbane.org.au](mailto:info@pflagbrisbane.org.au)**



Mr Langbroek  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment  
PO Box 15033  
City East Qld 4002

24 November 2012

Dear Mr Langbroek

The work of the Queensland government to prevent bullying in schools is impressive. As you said at the Estimates hearing on 16 October this is a significant issue that continues to raise its head.

I am writing to you on behalf of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - Brisbane (PFLAG) to offer assistance with the Working Together Against Bullying program. As parents we are very aware that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) children are highly susceptible to bullying. The greatest amount of harassment occurs within schools. LGBT children are up to 14 times more likely to attempt suicide and perform acts of self-harm compared to heterosexual children (Suicide Prevention Australia).

We would like to make an appointment to meet with you to ask you to consider the following:

1. That the Queensland Government follows the example of other states that acknowledge sexual diversity in schools and have procedures to prevent homophobic bullying;
2. That Queensland DETE develop a policy that acknowledges homophobic bullying in Queensland schools and the need to develop specific documents and procedures to help prevent it;
3. That PFLAG should be represented on the Queensland School Alliance Against Violence committee;
4. That the Working Together Against Bullying website provides a link to PFLAG Brisbane to ensure that parents and teachers of LGBT children facing difficulties at school know where to get information and assistance;
5. How PFLAG can support DETE and individual Queensland schools with information on the issues faced by LGBT students and the prevention of homophobic bullying.

Yours sincerely  
Dr Janet Berry

**Donations to PFLAG can be made at any time via our website  
[www.pflagbrisbane.org.au](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au) or by direct deposit. Account Name - PFLAG  
Brisbane BSB - 124-001 Account No - 2023-8607 Bank of Queensland**

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***Talking to Someone Who Really Understands Makes it So Much Easier***

Working through some of the deeper emotional issues with having a gay or lesbian son or daughter can be one of the most painful and stressful experiences of your life. Counselling is a highly effective way of feeling better and also can assist in keeping your family together. *Centre for Human Potential* have been working with parents of gays, lesbians and transgender for over 15 years. Contact one of our friendly psychologists to explore whether counselling can be of real benefit to you and your family, or simply call and book a time with one of us.

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*Email: [info@centreforhumanpotential.com.au](mailto:info@centreforhumanpotential.com.au)*



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# Keeping Families Together

PFLAG is very proactive in promoting acceptance and understanding of people who disclose their sexual diversity to family and loved ones. Parents often feel isolated, confused or angry when their loved one 'comes out' and this is an important area where PFLAG can offer assistance.

**Join us at our meetings, held every 2 months or contact us by  
phone: 0400 767 832 or email: [info@pflagbrisbane.org.au](mailto:info@pflagbrisbane.org.au)**

## **PFLAG Brisbane Annual Membership Form**

Please complete the form below and return to PFLAG.

You can also pay online - [www.pflagbrisbane.org.au](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au)

Larger donations are always welcome. Thanks for your support.

**Memberships are for a calendar year and entitle you to full voting rights at the AGM plus the ability to serve on the committee. Corporate membership includes website and newsletter advertising.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:

Family - \$25.00 annually - I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order made out to PFLAG Brisbane Inc.

Corporate - \$100.00 annually - (includes website and newsletter advertising) I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order made out to PFLAG Brisbane Inc.

**Mail to:** PO Box 1372, Eagle Farm BC Qld. 4009

**Bring to:** 30 Helen St, Teneriffe 4006

**Pay Online:** [www.pflagbrisbane.org.au](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au)

**Pay direct deposit:** Account Name - PFLAG Brisbane

BSB - 124-001

Account No - 2023-8607

Bank of Queensland

**Please make sure you provide us with your contact details (name, email and /or postal address so we can receipt your payment and ensure you receive our newsletters.**