



Welcome

Hi all, and welcome to another PFLAG Brisbane newsletter. I am sure you'll understand that most of the committees' time is now taken up with the conference and making sure that it will be a success. The plan is to keep it simple and informal but with a variety of topics that should cover most areas of interest.

We need to know if you will be attending by the 20th of May. If you don't have an application form, that's ok just email pflagbris@hotmail.com or call 0409 363 335 if you would like more information.

We have deliberately kept costs to an absolute minimum for those attending because we know travel can be expensive, but we believe it's worth the effort. I know when Maxine and I traveled to the last Conference in Sydney we came away with hope, enthusiasm and extra knowledge to continue working for PFLAG. It's our plan that those who attend the Brisbane Conference will do the same.

The intention of the Conference is to promote awareness and to inform parents with what is presently happening and to encourage every one to keep working for understanding, acceptance & equality. Furthermore, it is the hope of the conference to provide support and the opportunity to share and exchange knowledge and ideas, motivate and explore solutions, network to break isolation and to boost rural profiles.

- Shelley

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 28th of April, 2007. It is envisaged that we will have a guest speaker attending.

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

PFLAG Brisbane Conference 3rd National Conference

9th & 10th June, 2007

Brisbane Convention Centre

The conference is coming along well. Everything is just about in place. But, of course, it doesn't matter how hard we work without your support and attendance it can't succeed.

As you know, we plan to formulate a national policy that can be used regardless of the State in which we live. The hope is that this will give individual groups more confidence to speak up, knowing that other families and groups are supportive of what we say.

So come with plenty of ideas! **Even if you can't make the conference please submit your thoughts on:**

- *Marriage/civil unions*
- *Adoption*
- *Custody of children*
- *Blood donors*
- *Trivialising LGBT with jokes / humour*
- *Age of consent*
- *...and anything else you think is relevant regarding our LGBT sons and daughters.*

We have guest speakers discussing human rights, legislation and the law, family issues (e.g. same sex parenting), ageing, youth and risk taking, rural issues and same sex marriage. Rodney Croome will be our opening speaker and David Graham (from Big Brother 2006) will tell us his story about "coming out" in the bush.

Remember for those who travel great distance we hope to subsidise you in some way.

PFLAG Conference - Speakers

If you are speaking at this year's PFLAG Brisbane Conference (see *previous page*), and you have special audio / visual requirements, please contact Andy on 1300 660 937 or info@bigbuddaboom.com.au as soon as possible.

Speakers using a video or PowerPoint presentation are also requested to submit said presentation materials to Andy (via the above contact details) no later than 2 weeks prior to the conference.

Speakers are also asked to submit a short personal bio & photo, for conference documentation, marketing material & a presentation on the day. Thank you.

Rural & Regional Advertising

This year PFLAG Brisbane is concentrating the advertising of support for LGBT and their families in regional and rural areas. We are about to begin advertising in the regional and rural newspapers to help break the isolation families in these areas experience. The plan is to advertise in several newspapers for a limited time, using monthly advertisements.

We now have several PFLAG contacts in rural areas, so this should assist families seeking assistance feel less intimidated. Just recently, a new PFLAG group was founded at Kingaroy. Ron, Diane, Meryl and Shelley did the 4 hour drive to show support and talk about PFLAG and the many fears and concerns parents experience.

The group also discussed how the professionals in the area can assist with understanding and acceptance of LGBT persons in the local area. Congratulations to Sandra who is the President of the new group!

With the assistance of the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC), parents in Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast are also hoping to start an official PFLAG group. There are a lot of keen workers and parents so let's hope they are successful.

Radio Interviews

Grainne and Shelley have completed three one-hour radio interviews with Brisbane community radio station

"3YYY".

The first interview discussed *parent's emotions*, the second *coming out for singles & those who were married*, and the third interview discussed the issue of *equality and rights for lesbians and gays*.

The final interview drew to a close with a discussion on *the problems families and young people experience in country areas*.

Sexpo

Due to a mix up regarding the stall, PFLAG Brisbane did not take part in Sexpo this year.

Unfortunately we were unable to be stationed with others in the sexual health area and so we felt it not appropriate that we take part.

Brisbane Pride Day

Keep **Saturday the 16th of June** free... as this is the day of Brisbane's very own Pride March & Festival.

This is always a great, fun day - beginning with the usual rally & march to Musgrave Park, where there are plenty of great stands, food & drink stalls, concerts, and so on. For the parents who are active in PFLAG, it's an event we all enjoy.

This is a day that we can stand proudly with our young people & let them know we support them. The PFLAG contingent is growing every year.

Pride Fair and the huge numbers it attracts shows us that the more we stand up and be counted, the less we are affected by stigma and shame.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Rumours about rights

By now, most of you have heard the rumour circulating with regards to the Federal Coalition going to grant rights to our sons and daughters. How nice if this is true, but we probably shouldn't get too excited until we see something in writing.

Our sponsors

Please support our sponsors, so they can continue to support us!

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The PFLAG Brisbane newsletter is designed
& compiled by Andy Pudmenzky of Big Budda Boom

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pflag

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Internet: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

PFLAG is totally voluntary & organised by parents.
Please support us. You can assist by advertising here.
For more information, please contact Shelley Argent.

Pink

Pink Financial Services
Colin Paull & Associates

phone 02 9599 9206

email info@123taxonline.com.au

internet www.123taxonline.com.au

The Gay & Lesbian Business Association Inc.

PO Box 67, Spring Hill QLD 4004

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PFLAG Brisbane Annual Membership Form

Please complete the form below and return to PFLAG. You can also pay online, via www.pflagbrisbane.org.au. Larger donations are always welcome. Thanks for your support!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing address:

Email: _____

Membership type:

- Family (\$25 annually - I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order)
- Corporate (\$100 annually [incl. website & news letter advertising]; I have included a cheque or Australia Post money Order)

Mail to: PO Box 3142 South Brisbane 4101, or...

Bring to: 30 Helen Street, Newstead 4006, or...

Pay online at: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Thank you!

2007 PFLAG Brisbane Conference

Register your interest

This form is not binding but we are interested in knowing how many people are considering attending.

Name: _____

Which PFLAG group do you belong to? _____

Any special requirements if you do attend: _____

Or, generally from your group, how many are interested at this moment? _____

Please return this completed form to

Shelley Argent

Email pflagbris@hotmail.com

Ph. 0409-363-335 anytime

Ph. 30171739 Mon – Wed 9 am/noon