



Welcome

2007 is slowly drawing to a close. We have one more meeting for the year and then hopefully things will slow down for a while.

We can but hope either of two things. First, no more young people will disclose their sexual orientation before Christmas making the need for PFLAG unnecessary. Or secondly, loved ones will keep disclosing but family members will be fully accepting which will mean PFLAG still won't be needed.

- *Shelley Argent*

Convener, PFLAG Brisbane

Next Meeting

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on the **1st of December, 2007**. It's our last meeting for the year, so we look forward to seeing you there!

Date: 1st December, 2007

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

Last meeting

Many thanks to Joe Debatista from Queensland Health for coming along to talk about sexual health issues. Joe was quick to point out that regardless of sexual orientation, sexual health issues are very similar.

Joe's says that as parents, we need to be aware of and encourage safe sexual practice. Some of Joe's tips are:

- ★ *condoms should ALWAYS be used*
- ★ *be vaccinated against Hepatitis A and B*
- ★ *have regular sexual health check ups*

Joe recommends that when a new relationship is starting, the couple get a sexual health check-up, with the possibility of a condom not being used only when the relationship is monogamous.

This eliminates the risk of passing on any infection from past relationships, and keeps both people safe. Joe also removed much of the "fear factor" for many of the parents regarding HIV. A big "thank you" to Joe for giving up his Saturday afternoon!

Parents Struggling with Religious Issues

I was recently reading a book called "Is the Homosexual My Neighbour?". It's a Christian positive response written by Scanzoni and Mollenkot.

I have no intention of starting a debate about religion (as PFLAG is non-religious), but I have spoken to a few struggling parents recently, and these few sentences may provide some comfort or at least something to think about...

- ★ True self-acceptance comes most readily from the realization that God loves and accepts us just as we are.
- ★ Condemnation is, indeed a boomerang. Fortunately, so is loving.
- ★ Jesus knew all about stigma. He never hesitated to move among the oppressed people of his day, including the most despised social outcasts.

A number of meetings ago, guest speaker Catholic priest *Father John* was asked about the dilemma of religion & having a lesbian daughter or gay son. He stated "if you have to choose between church and child, choose your son or daughter".

- *Shelley Argent*

Convener, PFLAG Brisbane

3rd PFLAG Advertisement

We are proposing to run another advertisement in *The Australian*. This time, thanks to the continuing money that still seems to be flowing in from many anonymous donors, we have enough to run another advert.

At the time of writing, we are still in the process of deciding on the wording. The date for publishing is yet to be decided.

HREOC Forum

On the 29th of October, a HREOC (Human Rights & Equal Opportunities Commission) Forum was held at QUT's Gardens Point campus. Forum guest speakers were Andrew Bartlett (Democrat), Sharon Dane (President, Australia Marriage Equality) and Shelley Argent

A mix of community workers, politicians, university staff and students attended. It was also very nice to be supported by a group of PFLAG parents who came along to listen. We just need to keep spreading the word about the discriminations that, up until now, the Coalition has managed to ignore. We can just hope after the election - regardless of who wins, that positive changes are made.

Annual General Meeting

2007 has been a particularly successful year for PFLAG Brisbane and the Committee. Everyone has been keen and interested in making a difference regarding equality for our sons and daughters and education of the general community.

Our AGM will be held at the next meeting (Saturday 1st December 2007). So if you would like to be on the Committee or perhaps become Secretary, Treasurer or President please fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter, and send it in to us.

Promotional Officer

If anyone has PR skills, we would love to hear from you! We are looking for extra ideas on how to promote PFLAG in the general community.

Goals for 2008

Our goal in 2006 was to support rural families and youth. We believe this was very successful, thanks to our Long Reach for Out Reach Project and resource packs (www.longreachforoutreach.org).

In 2007, we hosted the 3rd National PFLAG Conference (in June), and we continued lobbying for an end to economic discrimination for same sex couples on a Federal level.

If you have ideas on what you see as important issues for our goal(s) for 2008 and how it (they) can be addressed, please don't hesitate to contact us with your thoughts and ideas.

Website Update

In October, the PFLAG Brisbane website received 782 unique visitors (compared with 718 in September, and 1112 in August).

The most popular hour of the day for visits was 8am in October, and 9pm in September. Our busiest day online in October was the 1st, and our busiest day online in September was the 14th.

In October, Shelley's eBook "Sexuality is not a choice" was downloaded / read 900 times (compared with 888 times in September).

In October, visitors came from Australia (most popular) followed by the USA, Ireland, and then Canada. In September, Australia was at the top of the list once more, followed by the USA, Ireland, New Zealand and China. Out of Australian locations, Brisbane was the most popular, followed by Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Ballarat, Toowoomba, Canberra and then Hobart.

Each conference speech (recordings of speeches from our many guest speakers at the June 2007 Conference) has been downloaded about 15 times each month, in October & September.

Log on to our website to read eBooks, past-newsletters & publications, listen to audio recordings, make a secure credit-card donation, pay for membership renewals & more! Check us out, at www.pflagbrisbane.org.au.

Our sponsors

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



Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Cnr. Merivale & Glenelg Streets, South Brisbane
Call 1800 063 308 or visit www.bcec.com.au

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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 1372 Eagle Farm BC, QLD 4009 , or...

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

Pay online at: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Thank you!

PFLAG Brisbane Committee Application Form

Please complete the form below and return to PFLAG.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing address:

Email: _____

Position you wish to apply for::

Mail to: PO Box 1372 Eagle Farm BC, QLD 4009 , or...

Bring to: 30 Helen Street, Newstead 4006

Thank you!