



Welcome

What an exciting year PFLAG Brisbane is having! I rather hoped the PFLAG year would start off slowly due to some major renovations in the Argent household, but no, this isn't what has happened. Also our meetings are growing in numbers which is great. This means more parents are seeking information and understanding, enabling these family units to remain united and strong.

Next Meeting

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on the **Saturday 31st May, 2008**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: 31st May, 2008

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

Paul Martin, our favourite psychologist, will be our guest speaker to answer questions and concerns. Paul was a speaker at our Conference in June 2007 and guest speaker last year at one of our regular meetings. He was very interesting and helpful to those who attended. So if you only attend one meeting this year, this is the meeting to attend.

Last meeting

Many thanks to Yvette Burgess, State Coordinator for LGBT Police Liaison Officers, for coming along to our last meeting and explaining her role. Yvette also discussed what action to take should our sons or daughters ever have a need for police assistance regarding an LGBT issue and they don't feel they have received the support from a general police officer. Simply, it's important to ask to speak with an LGBT trained officer at a nearby police station and then the issue will be acted upon.

Addressing Homophobia in the Workplace

This is one of our major projects for 2008 and I am pleased to report that the booklet is completed and the funding submission has been sent to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. So now we just sit and wait until June to see if the funding grant of approx. \$11,000 is granted.

If not, we will certainly be seeking funds from elsewhere to ensure this project is successful. Then the fun starts with packing bees. Thanks to the Queensland Unions, the 5,000 packs will be distributed throughout the State, with packs also being given to PFLAG groups across Australia.

2020 Summit

It was a great honour to be nominated and then to be chosen as a participant in this great event. I felt like a little fish in a very large pond. For me it was an emotional roller coaster ride, sometimes feeling hopeful and then despair. I found the best part of being at the Summit was having access to politicians who would normally be very difficult to have meetings with. Also to listen to the predominately straight audience in general support of LGBT rights.

The one real positive was that I was able to speak to Anthony Albanese, the Leader of the House, who assured me that economic discrimination would end at the end of the year. He stated that the legislation to be amended was extremely large, similar in size to the workplace legislation, and would take time. His other comment was that if it was introduced before July, it would lose in the Senate due to the Liberal influence. So let's hope they keep their word.

The negative side of the Summit was at the end, the whole group had to decide on the main priorities and same sex civil union was to have been a priority, but

between the decision being made and it being presented on stage in front of the 1002 delegates, it somehow disappeared off the radar.

I am assured that it will still be in the final submission, but I am angry because it won't be seen as a priority as first decided.

Final Advert in The Australian

This has not been forgotten, but both Rodney Croome and PFLAG Brisbane are of the opinion that our money will be better spent if we wait until later in the year to remind them of their promise. I think pre July is now too soon, especially after speaking with Anthony Albanese.

However, if you are unhappy with this decision and would like your donation returned, please let me know and we will provide you with a refund. But I really believe we need to still run the advert later in the year.

Website Update

In February 2008, the PFLAG website received 720 visits, compared with 823 in March.

In February, Shelley's eBook "Sexuality is not a choice" was downloaded / read 515 times (compared with 801 times in March).

Each conference speech (recordings of speeches from our many guest speakers at the June 2007 Conference) has been downloaded about 17 times each month, in February & March.

Log on to our website to read eBooks, past-newsletters & publications or listen to audio recordings from the 3rd National PFLAG Conference. You can make a secure credit-card donation, pay for membership renewals or make contact with us online! Check us out, at www.pflagbrisbane.org.au.

High Schools

I was invited to speak about sexual diversity and homophobia at Tullawong High School near Caboolture a few weeks ago.

I was a little apprehensive at first, but went along well prepared. I just wasn't sure what to expect; but I was so impressed with their questions, their acceptance and how well informed some were about homosexuality, bisexuality and transgender issues.

They were a great bunch of young people and I left there with the belief that in time to come sexual diversity won't be the issue

Sex Discrimination Commissioner

Commissioner for Sex Discrimination Elizabeth Broderick approached me to organize a meeting with some lesbian mums to discuss the issues of juggling career and family, harassment and violence.

The meeting was held on the 24th April at the QAHC office. Ten mothers plus babies attended which gave Elizabeth a good variety of issues and concerns. One of the attendees relayed the story of when her partner was being wheeled into the operating theatre for major surgery, the boss called asking for reports to be completed.

The women felt this was because their relationship is not seen as valid or serious as a counterpart whose husband had a heart attack and was given plenty of sympathy and ample time off to care for her husband.

A non biological parent told the story of how when she took the daughter for her Gardisal vaccine for cervical cancer, with signed papers (from the biological mother) in hand, her and the 15yr old girl were turned away because she had no legal right to permit the girl to be vaccinated.

The women believe the need for "known adoption" should be considered a priority to ensure the security of the children involved in the relationship.

As the law stands in Queensland at the moment children can be removed and given to strangers if the biological parent should become incapacitated or die, leaving the partner with no rights over the children in the family unit.

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

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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.



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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:

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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!