



## Welcome

Won't it be lovely when PFLAG is no longer needed? But meanwhile, thanks to the hard work of the PFLAG committee we are becoming a voice in the general community. We also seem to be getting more exposure in the media with requests for interviews and comment requests by journalists about topical issues.

Plus, the meeting numbers are certainly growing which shows parents are becoming more confident to accept, support and work to understand their loved ones who identify as LGBT, which is wonderful.

Please understand that if you have never attended a meeting but would like to, you are always welcome to attend and we strive to make them as friendly and supportive as possible. Thank you.

- Shelley

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

## Next Meeting

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on the **Saturday 9th August, 2008**. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Time:** 1.30pm

**Place:** 30 Helen Street, Newstead

## Last Meeting

Many thanks to Paul Martin (Principal Psychologist; Centre for Human Potential) for being guest speaker again at our general meeting. Paul is not only entertaining as he discusses some very serious issues, but his personal input helps to put so many parents at ease with their concerns about their own personal concerns and for those of their loved ones who identify as LGBT.

Paul is always generous with his expertise and knowledge for PFLAG and we sincerely thank him for being part of the PFLAG family.

You can visit the Centre for Human Potential online, at: [www.centreforhumanpotential.com.au](http://www.centreforhumanpotential.com.au)

## Pride Fair Day

Congratulations to the Pride Board for organizing another successful day! The march as usual was huge, with the numbers swelling each year. It's great to see more people out, proud and ready to march.

Many thanks to the PFLAG parents who marched and helped to maintain the stall on the day. It's always great to have the gay community come along to the stall just to say hello and have a chat.

To me, Pride Fair Day is a day that makes me feel proud to be part of such a welcoming community and on the other a little sad that more parents don't attend to be part of their son's and daughter's day of celebration. But as we watch Pride Fair Day numbers improve, we know the acceptance and expectation of equality is also growing and more people are feeling confident to be out and proud which is just GREAT!

- Shelley

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

## LGBTIQ Community Summit

PFLAG was recently asked to hold a summit regarding issues that affect the gay community. This was held on the 21st June at QUT Kelvin Grove. We would like to thank QUT for providing us with a venue. We are also appreciative of all those who gave their day to make this a success - volunteers and participants.

Many thanks also to the facilitators & scribes who volunteered their time to make each topic chosen a success in its own right.

We will provide more information on the proposals put forward by those who attended once the reports are finalised.

## **Activating Human Rights & Peace Conference**

*1st – 4th July, Byron Bay*

As part of this international conference, PFLAG Brisbane convener *Shelley Argent* presented a paper and took part in a panel which discussed LGBTIQ rights. Shelley spoke about being a parent and watching the Federal Government actively discriminate against one son (just because of his sexuality) while his heterosexual brother is able to take his rights for granted.

## **Stonewall Celebration**

For those who may be unaware, 'Stonewall' was the human rights march that took place 30 years ago, which began the "fight" for equality for the gay community. It was as a result of this march, that some parents of lesbian & gay children started PFLAG in the United States.

As part of the Stonewall celebration, the Metropolitan Community Chapel (MCC) asked Shelley to speak at one of their Sunday evening services. After a little initial hesitation, Shelley accepted when she was informed that the topic would be "Jesus didn't discriminate, so why should we?".

Shelley mentioned that she recalled seeing a group marching with this slogan on their shirts at the Mardi Gras parade in Sydney recently, and thought "How true is this - and where is George Pell when you want him?".

## **Radio 792/ABC Western Queensland**

Recently, PFLAG Brisbane was contacted by a producer of "Life Matters", a program on ABC Radio

792 at 9am on weekdays. A friend of the producer has had a son/daughter "come out" and she's seen how the mother is struggling. The producer rightly assumed that there must be many others in society all having the same concerns and fears, and decided it was a good time to do a story on how many parents struggle with coming to terms with a loved one's sexual diversity.

In other news, ABC Radio in Western Queensland contacted Shelley for an interview to be aired during a 9.15am timeslot; virtually prime time morning radio.

The interview covered similar ideas about the issues for those in country areas who may be coming to terms with their own or loved one "coming out". It's heartening that the topic is being discussed and no longer swept under the rug as it used to be.

## **Membership**

As you would all be aware we are all volunteers and we receive very little funding, so it's most important that you support us so we can continue to support other families who will be needing PFLAG support in the future, as we all did when we were working through the issues that come when we find out our sons and daughters are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Remember you may no longer need PFLAG to support you, but PFLAG now needs your support. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter for payment information & a membership form. Thank you for your support.

## **Thank you!**

PFLAG Brisbane would like to thank Lynne and Kieran Walsh for their support over the years. They're retiring to the Gold Coast, but they plan to remain active in PFLAG on the Coast.

For several years, Lynne has volunteered in our office to answer the phone & address envelopes etc while Kieran has always been the person "happy to stay to the end of Pride" to help with the cleaning up. Kieran has also initiated many petitions. Both have been cheerful members on the PFLAG committee.

We'll miss you!

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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.

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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](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au). Larger donations are always welcome. Thanks for your support!

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Membership type:

- Family (\$25 annually - I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order)
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**Bring to:** 30 Helen Street, Newstead 4006, or...

**Pay online at:** [www.pflagbrisbane.org.au](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au), or into our account (*Bank of Qld / BSB: 124-001 / Acct: 2023-8607*).

Thank you!