



Welcome

Hi everyone and welcome to another PFLAG newsletter. I have just returned from the UK after visiting my son who is now living in London.

The weather was relatively kind and I had a lovely time with him. Towards the end of the holiday we had 4 days driving around Ireland.

I would really recommend the exercise (of a driving holiday) one on one, to anyone who wants to reconnect with their son or daughter. It was lovely just to sit beside him sometimes we were quiet, sometimes chatting. Some of the conversation was trivia, other very meaningful.

When I was leaving him at the airport we both had tears, we'd had such a lovely time together.

But what really surprised me was when he informed me that he never realised how "really supportive" of him I am. It was a time with him that I will always remember.

- Shelley

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

Next Meeting

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on the **Saturday 11th October, 2008**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

Last Meeting

The meeting in August was the first meeting I have ever missed in the 10 years I have been organising PFLAG

and I'm pleased to know that there are plenty of able and willing people to take my place.

I am told the meeting was very large with several new families attending. With the numbers growing at our meetings it shows that we are becoming more 'visible' in the general community and more importantly people are becoming more comfortable with accessing our support and the services that we provide.

Chris Pye from Relationships Australia came along to discuss a new LGBT counseling service. The service is run on Mondays from the QAHC Office at 30 Helen Street, Newstead.

I believe that at the moment it's just a pilot program that will run for 6 months. So if anyone needs couples counseling, or parent / child counseling regarding LGBT issues, now is the time to access the service.

The cost is \$75 per hour or \$35 concession. Phone 1300 364 277

Great Bake Off - Sportsman's hotel

PFLAG and the Transgender Association of QLD were the recipients of this iconic annual fundraiser for the gay community this year.

Every year for the last 16 years, the Sportsman's Hotel has opened their doors to assist a local organisation in the gay community.

PFLAG would like to thank Neil, Paul and all of the staff in general for their generosity of time. The entertainment and general enthusiasm of all of everyone helped to make this a record day for fundraising.

It would also be very remiss of me to not thank the audience also for their generosity regarding the bidding

of auctioned items. Some cakes sold for \$2000 each!

The auction itself went for at least 3 hours due to the record number of goodies baked and crafts made.

Thanks to Paul's huge effort who by profession is an Auctioneer made the whole event very entertaining, even though by the end he had almost lost his voice. He certainly kept the crowds attention to the task and everyone was happy.

And finally, a big thank you to everyone who took the time to make the day possible by donating either the items for auction or prizes for the raffles and door prize which helped to make the whole day possible and as successful as it was.

BIG THANK YOU - SPORTSMANS HOTEL!

Addressing Homophobia in the workplace

Two working bees were held to collate the information to be sent out to Unions around Queensland. This is a very important pack which highlights the homophobia that still exists in the workplace today.

This pack provides tips and information on how to make your workplace more friendly and accepting.

The pack contains a small booklet for the manager or "boss" to read, 5 brochures to be left where workers gather (for example, the lunch room) and a magnet for the fridge which remains a constant reminder of the discrimination that exists in workplaces.

Many thanks to the volunteers who came along to help out; these days are always busy, sometimes chaotic - but always fun!

Also thank you to Susan Booth the Anti Discrimination Commissioner of Queensland who wrote the preamble to the booklet. We believe this gives our project credibility not only to those in the workplace but also government.

Advertising - The Australian newspaper

Please note that as the newsletter is going to print we

are in the early stages of preparing the next message to Kevin Rudd and his government regarding the need for equality and as a reminder to keep any pre-election promises.

I have been liaising with Rodney Croome (of the Australian Coalition for Equality) in Tasmania, and Corey (from the Victorian Gay Rights Lobby Group) to decide on the best wording for our message.

Many thanks to all of those who donated earlier in the year for their patience and trust about when to move with this message to the government.

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.

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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, or into our account (*Bank of Qld / BSB: 124-001 / Acct: 2023-8607*).

Thank you!