



Welcome

Hello everyone, and welcome to another PFLAG newsletter. It's coming up to Christmas and the end of the year - and while that's normally when people start to wind things down, PFLAG just gets busier all the time.

I thought that once the *Addressing Homophobia in the Workplace* packs were distributed, PFLAG life for us would begin to slow, but this isn't the case - as you'll see from the amount of things we have going on.

So before I let you get right into the rest of the newsletter, I'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you at our final meeting for 2008 (see below for more details).

- Shelley

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

Next Meeting & 2008 Summary

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on **Saturday 22nd November, 2008**. This meeting will also be our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the final meeting for 2008. As this will be our AGM, we won't have a guest speaker and ask that if possible, you bring along some Christmas-type food for afternoon tea.

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

2008 has been a very successful year, thanks to the input of our committee members. I would also like to thank Margaret who now shares the load with me in staffing the office. Margaret also looks after the helpline, which has been a tremendous help.

Many thanks to our Secretary Gail, who tries very hard

to keep us in line with structure, process of meetings and following up on tasks. Gail is a very important member because we need someone to look at the "small picture", which isn't something I always do.

Maxine, our Treasurer, is always a great support and keeps our accounts in a simple, no-nonsense manner. Maxine has been with PFLAG for many years and has seen how we have grown to be a credible organisation in the Brisbane gay & lesbian community.

Andy, our "website guru", does a great job with our online presence and, without him, we wouldn't have achieved the level of professionalism that we have with our website and with some of our projects over the last few years. So thank you Andy.

Thanks also to Una, our Vice President, who has been a great support in 2008 and has helped to lighten my work load in a variety of ways. Una & her partner Catherine were instrumental in much of the writing of *Addressing Homophobia in the Workplace*.

A big thank you to Meryl, who has been on the committee for several years now and is always supportive of new parents at meetings. Meryl is a Mum who is always ready to stand at information booths and march with pride. She is also a person who under-estimates her role at PFLAG, and it just wouldn't be the same if she wasn't there.

Many thanks to Chrissie, who travels many miles to attend the meetings and is always ready to help where possible. We know it isn't always easy for her but we appreciate her efforts.

If you would like to be part of the committee in 2009, please let us know via the form on the back page of this newsletter.

Perhaps you might like to see us go in another direction, or maybe you have ideas about what our goals should be for 2009. If so, we want to hear from you!

We hold committee meetings prior to the general meeting. We begin at noon and always bring our own lunch. If you would like to discuss being on the committee beforehand please feel free to contact Shelley on 0409 363 335 or via pflagbris@hotmail.com.

- Shelley

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

PFLAG Advertising update

Our advertisements are still running fortnightly in the Saturday edition of the Courier Mail. This paper is distributed statewide, which also gives regional and rural people access to our website and helpline number if they should require our assistance.

The *Sexuality is not a Choice* booklet is still being downloaded almost 1000 times a month from our website... if only we had a dollar for every download!

While on the topic of our website, we're very surprised that our 2007 Conference guest-speaker recordings are still being downloaded. So even though the numbers attending the conference weren't huge, the speeches themselves (and the information provided within) has since reached thousands of people from around the world.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander PFLAG Packs

As some of you may be aware, we are in the process of developing and producing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PFLAG pack.

This pack will contain the first section of the *Sexuality is not a Choice* booklet, which discusses the concerns and emotions for parents with gay sons and lesbian daughters.

The second part of the *Sexuality is not a Choice* booklet will be written in Aboriginal English (to ensure use of

the correct distinctive features of accent, grammar, words and meanings). This task is being undertaken by Brett Mooney, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worker at QAHC.

Brett's mother, Patricia Wright, is a community worker in Mackay and will be involved in creating an audio CD which will contain stories from parents, lesbians and gays. Our plan is to have the bulk of this pack completed before Christmas.

Information Translation

Thanks again to the Sportsman's Hotel for their generosity this year. We were part-recipients of their Charity Day, aka "The Great Bake Off", which is an auction of cooking and crafts.

Our share was made up of \$9,600, and with this we have prepared a *Summary of PFLAG Information* (approx 1800 words) which is being translated into French, Greek, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Mandarin and Cantonese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Hindi (the national language of India) and Croatian, for publication & digital distribution on our website.

Of course, there are always more languages that this information could be translated into, but we feel that these languages should cover most bases.

The information should be on our website by Christmas. If you know of anyone who may need this information beforehand, please let us know and we can provide them with a hard copy.

Galaxy Opinion Poll

PFLAG Brisbane was recently approached by the *Queensland Coalition LGBT Lobby Group* to sponsor a survey.

The poll aims to ask the general community about discrimination that affects the lesbian and gay community in Queensland.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh insists that the people of Queensland are not ready for equality regarding age

of consent issues, adoption of partner's children, and civil unions etc, but we believe that with the election due in September 2009, there has never been a better time than now to find out.

We also believe this is a prime opportunity to show that PFLAG Brisbane really do support the LGBT community. As such, we are providing the funds for this telephone poll, as we believe this is a very important survey which could bring about positive change for the gay community of this state.

More information will be provided about this project in coming newsletters.

International Lesbian Day

Shelley and Una represented PFLAG Brisbane on this special day for the girls.

Just over 200 lesbians attended, and there were stalls promoting lesbian businesses and social groups, musical entertainment in the morning and sporting activities on the oval after a BBQ lunch.

PFLAG would like to thank the City Lickers for their support.

Gay Youth & Policing

PFLAG Brisbane has been approached for sponsorship by Angela Dwyer, a lecturer at QUT who is doing research into how Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) youth are treated with regard to policing issues. This is another issue that we, as a parent body, believe to be very important.

The information gathered could draw attention to areas where policing skills can be improved in order to work better with LGBT youth.

In order to protect our young LGBT community members, we need to know what the issues are and then have them addressed. PFLAG Brisbane has provided funding for this research project.

Klub Kruze

Many thanks to gay male venue, "Klub Kruze" for their support. A money tin is kept at the front door for PFLAG donations, and we recently received a call that there was \$300 to be collected! Many thanks to Brent and his team who have always been supportive of us.

Addressing Homophobia in the Workplace

The *Addressing Homophobia in the Workplace* packs have been very well received by the Queensland Council of Unions.

Rumour has it that the 5000 packs we produced may not be enough, so we'll just wait and see what happens over the coming weeks.

Our sponsors

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



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Email: info@pflagbrisbane.org.au

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.

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

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

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!