



Jan 09 Newsletter

I hope everyone's Christmas and holiday break was as joyful and relaxing as hoped. I know our Christmas was very busy catching up with friends and enjoying time with our boys, even if they were home only for a few days.

This newsletter is smaller than usual because of the Christmas break, but we hope it eases everyone in the PFLAG family back into thinking of "what can we do this year to make a better world for our children". It also informs readers of how we are working to encourage understanding and acceptance for families who don't have easy access to information to achieve this goal.

Initially, I was thinking this may be a quieter year, but I am beginning to feel that this could be another busy year for us. So be prepared.

Changes to PFLAG Brisbane:

As we are growing into a large and busy group, we feel it's time some of the tasks are shared. Una, our Vice President will now chair our general meetings with Gail as the Co-Chair. Una has some ideas of her own that may benefit those attending now that the meetings are becoming quite large.

I would like to thank Una for volunteering to take the lead with this important area of PFLAG. This will allow me more time to concentrate on promoting education and understanding generally as well as lobbying for equality.

2009 State Election

With the State Elections being held sometime this year, it brings more hope for improved rights for our lesbian daughters and gay sons in long term relationships. I think it's important that we lobby the government and opposition to let them know that it's time they brought Queensland into line with other States in relation to such issues as adoption, the recognition of same sex relationships and the need for homophobic attitudes to be addressed in all areas of life.

Federal Recognition:

A great start to 2009 federally, thanks to the Same Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws – General Law Reform) Bill being passed through the Senate.

The legislative changes will include:

- Aged Care

- Employment
- Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits
- Social Security
- Superannuation
- Taxation

Many of the changes won't take effect for a few months but it is comforting to know that our sons and daughters are now being recognised federally and that everyone's hard work over the years hasn't been wasted.

Parents of Transgender Meeting:

This is a special meeting just for parents. The intention of this meeting is to give parents the opportunity to meet and speak with other parents dealing with similar issues. We know how parents of lesbians and gay males benefit from peer support meetings and we would like to offer parents of transgender and intersex the same opportunity.

Dr. Gail Bearman will attend the meeting to answer questions generally.

Date: 7th February 2009

Venue: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

Time: 1:00pm

Indigenous PFLAG Pack

This pack is now well on the way to being completed and another first for PFLAG Brisbane. The pack has been prepared as sensitively as possible and we hope it will be of assistance to readers.

Website:

Andy has been working very hard to upgrade our website, so within the next few weeks there will be additional information and resources available for anyone to download. We are extremely grateful to Andy and his talents in making our website so professional.

The Summary of PFLAG Information translated into 17 languages will also be available on the website, which will make it easier for anyone worldwide to access our information and gain understanding of their loved ones who "come out".

Next Meeting

Date: 31st January, 2009

Time: 1:30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

Guest Speaker:

David Wells, State Group Work and Counseling Co-Ordinator for QAHC will be our guest speaker and will be discussing same sex relationships.