



Welcome

This year has started off with some positive changes and a year with plenty to do! This year we have decided to do some more "job sharing" which is great. Una, our Vice President, is now facilitating the group meetings.

It was decided that at our first meeting in January, we would trial changing the process a little. We will review the process in a few months and perhaps the meetings will take a new direction. So if you would like to have input now is the time to have your say.

I hope that by now everyone has checked out our new website (www.pflagbrisbane.org.au). It looks great! The many people who access the website can be thankful for Andy's talent and expertise, and Gail for her input in making it a first class website.

- Shelley Argent

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

Next Meeting

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on **Saturday 21st March, 2009.**

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

Our guest speaker is Angela Dwyer (lecturer, QUT), who will be reporting on a PFLAG-sponsored survey on the topic of how police and LGBT youth interact.

Indigenous PFLAG Pack

The Indigenous PFLAG Pack is now complete and ready to go to the printers. The pack consists of the section from "Sexuality is not a Choice" relating to lesbian and gays; a brochure in very simple English; and two postcards.

One postcard depicts a traditional male elder sitting in his boat with a turtle. The other picture is of a female police officer. The cards say "I am a part of your community and I am gay/lesbian". The packs have been prepared in coordination with the Two Spirits Program which is part of the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities Indigenous Program.

We believe this is the first time any support like this has been offered to indigenous families.

State Election 2009

As 2009 is Queensland state election year, PFLAG, along with other LGBT groups, will be busy lobbying Ms Bligh and Mr Springborg about the need for equality for same sex attracted couples.

The issues to be targeted are same sex recognition, adoption of partner's children and anti homophobia policies for schools.

How you can help...

If you would like to send either or both politicians a letter but aren't sure what to write, or if you would just like more information, go to our website and click on "Projects."

We have a series of sample letters that you can download, which aim to send a clear message that we want equality for our sons and daughters. All you need to do is print, complete and send the letter to the desired politician(s).

We have already contacted all State politicians regarding the need for equality, but we're sure the more letters they receive, the quicker they will respond and make changes. We will also be placing a series of advertisements in the Courier Mail on a regular basis, outlining the need for change.

These advertisements are to be paid for by private donations, and not PFLAG funds - so if you would like to help, please let us know. The more funding we receive, the more advertisements we will be able to do to get the message out to our politicians and the general public.

Parents of Transgender and Intersex Meeting

The first meeting for parents of transgender and intersex was held on the 7th February. The meeting was relatively small with 4 families attending.

Dr. Gail Bearman from the Gender Clinic came along to answer questions that parents had regarding treatments. The meeting was informal with lots of conversation and comparing of situations. The next meeting will be held on Saturday the 16th of May, 2009

This was the first time that parents had been able to sit freely and talk about their personal concerns and fears with other parents in similar situations. They left knowing that they weren't alone and much more informed generally thanks to Gail. We will hold these meetings every 3 months.

Membership

Annual membership (\$25.00 per family) is now due. Corporate membership is \$100 per year which entitles a business to advertise in our newsletter & on our new website - so if you own a business or know someone who does and would like to advertise, please let them know.

Membership renewals and donations can be made via our website, at www.pflagbrisbane.org.au - just click on "Membership / Donations". A membership form has also been included with this newsletter, in case you wish to send a cheque.

Our sponsors

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



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The PFLAG Brisbane newsletter is
Designed & compiled by Big Budda Boom

www.bigbuddaboom.com.au or info@bigbuddaboom.com.au
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pflag

PFLAG Brisbane (Shelley Argent)

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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.

ADVERTISE HERE!
Contact Shelley on 3017 1739

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!