



Shelley's Welcome

As you read our latest newsletter, you will most likely all be able to tell that we've been busy spreading the "It's OK to be gay" word by community education, by lobbying government for equality and with the help of some very supportive people working for us.

We also believe that it's very important to encourage studies and surveys so that we know how the gay community really feel and perceive themselves, while at the same time supporting credible opinion polls to gauge the general community's attitudes in 2009.

We believe these studies and surveys will help to exert pressure on governments to implement change. These polls prevent politicians from using the old argument that Australians or Queenslanders "just aren't ready," which we all know is just an excuse to do nothing.

Rome wasn't built in a day, but as long as we all keep chipping away, change will happen sooner rather than later.

- Shelley Argent
Convener, PFLAG Brisbane

Next Meeting

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on **Saturday 25th July, 2009**.

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

National Galaxy Poll

PFLAG Brisbane has funded a National Galaxy Poll which asked questions about same sex marriage and recognition of overseas relationships in Australia. The telephone poll took place on the 29th and 31st of May. We are now waiting for the results.

Tasmanian Trip

During the week of April 26th to May 2nd, Shelley was fortunate enough to be in Tasmania on a PFLAG speaking tour. Susan Ditter, of *Working It Out (WIO)*, asked Shelley to come along to help generate interest in people becoming a part of PFLAG and to meet with parents who are still struggling with their son or daughters diverse sexuality.

WIO supports young LGBT people and their parents in a variety of manners; they also liaise and provide support to schools and police. While WIO is made up of a small band of workers, they certainly achieve a lot.

Susan and Shelley drove to Launceston, Deloraine and Burnie, where they met with young people, parents and a variety of workers from each area. They also conducted a number of radio interviews and had a number of newspaper articles published - helping to spread the word about PFLAG. While it was a very busy week, Shelley was able to meet with some very interesting people - a few of which are keen to be contacts for PFLAG.

State Government Lobbying

Now that the Queensland State Election is over, we've been working towards the opportunity of having a meeting with Premier Anna Bligh. Since Kevin Rudd's legislative changes to remove the economic discrimination in late November 2008, there is concern about the rights of same sex couples with children.

As legislation is not consistent from state to state, those in long term relationships will also face issues when moving interstate. Additionally, there is confusion between states and federal legislation. These are simple issues and something our straight sons and daughters will never experience. We will keep you informed about progress in this area.

Open Letter to Labor State Conference

We have provided 350 open letters, fact sheets and PFLAG brochures to those attending the State Conference here in Queensland.

The letters request attendees support by questioning the government as to why their workers and union members still suffer discrimination in their personal lives.

The letters also point out that workers who are happy and secure in their home environment, are generally better workers.

Paul Martin – Guest Speaker

Many thanks to Paul Martin, our resident psychologist, who came along for his annual visit to talk with parents at our last meeting. We can always be sure of a large attendance when Paul speaks, as he generally manages to put parents at ease about a very serious issue.

We would like to thank Paul for his ongoing support of PFLAG and I would recommend if any parents are having issues regarding acceptance or understanding of their gay son or lesbian daughter to meet with Paul privately to have a chat.

Psychologists are now part of the Medicare rebate system and we believe you just need a referral from your GP to access the benefit at a more affordable cost. If you would like to meet with Paul or one of his colleagues for assistance just call the Centre for Human Potential on 3211 1117. They are based at 190 Edward Street, Brisbane.

Canadian Marketing Campaign

We are about to embark on a poster campaign for schools with the message that “so gay, is so yesterday”.

PFLAG Canada are very happy to share their ideas and poster. We will have more about this campaign later when it comes to fruition.

Not so Private Lives

PFLAG Brisbane is funding a research project into the “Not so Private Lives” of sexual minorities in Australia.

The study is focusing on whether our LGBT sons and daughters are generally open about their sexuality or not. For more info, visit www.pflagbrisbane.org.au or www.unipark.de/uc/notsoprivatelives/

Fundraising Events

Many thanks to Jak Vaessen from the Agapi Hair Salon (Wellbeing Centre, Spring Hill) for his inclusion of PFLAG in his annual fund raising event.

The night was a great success with lots of great entertainment. Jak and his partner Ari really are quite amazing in their approach to giving back to the community. Shelley was presented with a \$2500 cheque for PFLAG with the promise of ongoing support. Again, thank you so much.

Jak's salon is:
*Agapi Hair Salon,
226 Leichhardt Street
Spring Hill
Phone (07) 3831 9988*

PFLAG would also like to thank Club Phoenix for their generous donation and kind words. We really do appreciate the support the LGBT community gives us.

Parents of Transgender Support Group

The meeting was again very successful for parents who attended and a big thank you to Krissie and Gina for giving up their Saturday afternoon.

However, it's a shame that other parents who have transgender sons and daughters don't come along and feel the benefit of sharing experiences with others in similar situations.

The Next Parents of Transgender Meeting

To be held on 8 August 2009 with Paul Martin as our guest speaker.

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!



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