



President's Welcome

We have had a change of season and how our dry landscape changed – with little prediction. Our lives are like that too – change comes and it is may be with little notice too. Change is growth and with that we discard what is no longer required to embrace the new challenges.

We welcomed new faces to our meeting in March and hope we extended the support and knowledge required to further the understanding of the changes that took place in their lives. Our thanks are extended to our guest speaker Chip, who presented a very candid and informative overview of his journey through life. There was much variation in his life and the interaction from the group was well received.

Easter has passed for another year and we were given wonderful weather – the beach, camping, fishing, home gardening, wedding celebrations – it was kind to all.

We continue with a steady steam of enquiry for resources from our website together with the occasional call for support to new parents. Our newest resource is a fold out brochure – Be an Ally & speak up for equality! These are being gradually distributed.

Open Doors held their Queeriosity event Sunday 18 April – many community services and organisations gathered together, including PFLAG to provide contact with LGBTI youth as well as connecting with parents, friends and Queer friendly community. Sincere thanks to Eddie, Valerie, Maryanne and Una for their and support for the day.

Monday May 17 is Anti Homophobic day – I mention just to raise awareness.

*- Margaret Parkhill
President, PFLAG Brisbane*

Next Meeting

PFLAG Brisbane's next meeting will be on **Saturday 22nd May, 2010**.

Guest speaker: Psychologist Paul Martin

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead (down the driveway to the Training Room at the rear of the building)

Nicholas's Corner

Nicholas is a student placement in our office during his Bachelor of Science external studies. His presence enhances his knowledge in a hands on way of how PFLAG works and will be reflected in his university assignments. He has attended meetings and involved himself with projects during his time with us.

Nicholas has launched PFLAG onto Facebook – it is invite only basis and welcome your involvement. It seems to be the modern way to go and information posted 'on the wall'. This medium will keep the invited informed on many levels as the membership expands. He will monitor Facebook site after his placement time ceases with us.

Big Gay Day - Sunday 7th March, 2010

This was a fantastic, well-attended event and we were fortunate to be given a cheque for \$7,000 from The Wickham Hotel to further the promotion of PFLAG and our work with the LGBTI community. Thank you to The Wickham Hotel and everyone who donated on the day.

Pride Day

Our next major event Pride Day will be held Saturday 12 June 2010 – mark the diary! Again volunteers required to man the stall on the day – Musgrave Park South

Brisbane 10:00am – 6:00pm. Entry on the day \$15. We look forward to seeing you there!

So Gay is So Yesterday

An idea floated at a recent meeting is if you have a good relationship with you local school community you may care to request a few posters (view on the website) to distribute to your local school or offer to the Health Nurse or Counsellor attached to the high school.

Upon request the posters will be posted out to you – these posters are a great tool to assist with raised awareness of bullying in our schools.

Membership

Annual membership (\$25 per family) is now due. Corporate membership is \$100:00 per year which entitles a business to advertise in our newsletter and on our website – if you own a business or know someone who does - they may like to advertise with us.

Membership application/renewal and donations may be made via our website – www.pflagbrisbane.org.au – click on “Membership/Donations”.

A membership form has also been enclosed with this newsletter should you desire to send cheque/money order made payable “PFLAG Brisbane Inc”. It is important to write the name in full as shown.

Shelley’s Report - Marriage Equality

It is great that our sons and daughters can now be included on birth certificates of partner’s children born through IVF or surrogacy in Queensland but there is still the issue of recognizing their relationships which is a federal issue.

The problem is for many of our sons and daughters when the move interstate they don’t know what their rights are which is something we will never have to worry about as straight couples.

I have been lobbying federal government for quite a while now but need your help. I write letters weekly and

send them off to every federal MP and Senator which lets them know that we as parents want equality for our children. But I can’t do it alone.

All I am asking is that every parent write one letter, saying why you want equality for your child and then send it to me at pflagbris@bigpond.com so I can send it off to the federal politicians. The plan is one letter from me weekly and one from you.

This exercise worked very well regarding parenting issues here in QLD. Of course not every same sex couple want to marry but they should be given the same choices as their straight siblings.

Some tips:

- Instant recognition of relationship
- Provides respect and removes confusion if legal issues should arise
- Marriage increases life expectancy
- Marriage assists families come to terms with the belief that lesbians and gays won’t automatically grow old and lonely
- Marriage shows that couples are serious about their relationship and assists family come to acceptance of the relationship
- A Galaxy Poll taken in June 09, shows that 60% of Australians agree same sex couples should be allowed to marry
- Marriage is about building a relationship and planning a life together
- Provides emotional, financial and social commitment
- Marriage is legal in Portugal and Spain (Catholic Countries), Canada and South Africa (Commonwealth Countries), also Scandinavia, Belgium and Netherlands, plus several US States (because in the US marriage is state not federal legislation).

Thank you for your support.

- Shelley Argent
National Spokesperson, PFLAG



Big Budda Boom
connecting your senses

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

www.bigbuddaboom.com.au or info@bigbuddaboom.com.au
Video to DVD // Corporate events & Staging // Artwork & Design
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pflag

PFLAG Brisbane (Shelley Argent)

Mail: PO Box 1372 Eagle Farm BC, QLD 4009

Office: 30 Helen Street, Newstead 4006

Phone: 3017 1739 or the helpline on 0400 767 832

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.



Talking to Someone Who Really Understands Makes it So Much Easier

Working through some of the deeper emotional issues with having a gay or lesbian son or daughter can be one of the most painful and stressful experiences of your life.

Counselling is a highly effective way of feeling better and also can assist in keeping your family together. Centre for Human Potential have been working with parents of gays, lesbians and transgender for over 15 years.

Contact one of our friendly psychologists to explore whether counselling could be of real benefit to you and your family, or simply call and book a time with one of us.

If you are not familiar with how to access the Medicare rebate, one of our receptionists would be more than happy to speak to you about this.

Phone 3211 1117 or you can email us on info@centreforhumanpotential.com.au

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 - made out to "PFLAG BRISBANE INC.")

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!