

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - Brisbane



Supporting families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer offspring

Special points of interest:

- Australia lags behind England, Wales and New Zealand in marriage equality legislation.
- Action against Homophobia in Queensland Schools (AHQS) gets going
- Transgender support group in Brisbane well attended
- PFLAG Tshirts available soon

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Letter from the President

It has been a busy year so far and doesn't look like slowing down! Just reflecting back on what we have done and achieved in the past 6 months is quite amazing! Janet (secretary) and I have been working on how we can address homophobic/transphobic bullying in Queensland schools (page 3).

Dr Tiffany Jones and I presented at the No 2 Bullying conference in May on the Gold Coast. Dr Jones presented her research on homo/transphobic bullying in QLD and I spoke about the very real impact on our kids and what PFLAG Brisbane is doing to address this. It was very well received!

I also went out to Mt Isa to speak at their Family Equality Day and to support the great work being

done out there by PFLAG Mt Isa and other LGBTIQ people and organisations. Daniel Whitthaus also spoke and spent a week there talking to Mt Isa people about homophobia.



Donna Goddard, PFLAG President talks to Penny Wong. ALP Senate Leader

What an inspiration he is!

A couple of PFLAG members recently went along to a Gay and Lesbian Business Network (GLBN) event and met Penny Wong who spoke brilliantly on the topic of Marriage Equality

and what it's like being an openly gay politician. Her advice to us was to lobby your LNP members to garner support for Marriage Equality.

I managed to break out my (very poor) volleyball and frisbee skills recently at a Family BBQ with Open Doors. It was great fun and fantastic to support young LGBTIQ people.

A number of PFLAG committee members met last week to talk strategy and vision. We had some ideas for new projects, so watch this space! If you haven't liked us on Facebook (PFLAG Brisbane) yet or followed us on Twitter (@pflagbris) then come join our conversations! We welcome your feedback and support.

Donna

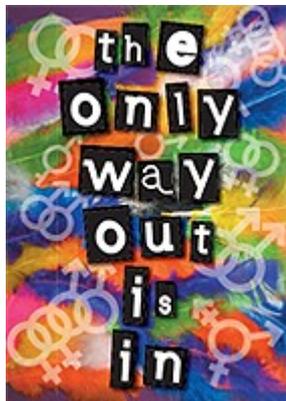
August PFLAG meeting

The next PFLAG meeting is at 1pm on Saturday 3 August at 30 Helen St, Teneriffe, Q 4006

The speaker will be Maria Delaney, a consultant to education and community organisations. Maria will speak on the bullying of LGBTIQ kids and what schools can and should do.

You are very welcome to come and join us. Tea and coffee provided.

Please bring along any tinned or dry foods or home-made frozen meals for Open Doors to give kids who may need a meal (see story on page 2).



We support Open Doors Youth Service

We joined Open Doors in New Farm Park on Saturday the 29th June for their Family BBQ. They put on a fabulous spread and we all had a most delightful day! The kids all helped out by making a couple of platters of crackers and cheese and of course the salads too. Rob and I helped out with the task of cooking (with Janet's guidance), Donna and her daughter Taylor joined in with the volleyball game and I do believe Donna's side was beaten??!!

What I found really great was the fact that it felt just like a regular family gathering. A few of the kids' parents

came along and we found time to chat with them. Mostly though I think the kids just enjoyed playing games in the park and sharing the time with the Rocky, Jules and Sal., the staff at Open Doors.

They are a great bunch of people who work so hard for these children and it was lovely to see them take time to relax and enjoy the day. I hope it becomes a regular event for all our sakes, and next time around please come along and join in the fun!

If you are coming along to the Pflag meeting on Satur-

day 3 August please feel free to bring along any tinned or dry foods that Open Doors can store in their pantry for the kids that may need a meal. Homemade frozen foods are welcome too.

Open Doors are developing plans to provide instruction to the kids on Saturdays in a range of skills such as cooking, changing car wheels or arts and crafts. PFLAG has offered to provide assistance. We will give you more information in the next newsletter and ask you to volunteer a few hours help.

Lynn

“Marriage Equality happens when all MPs have a conscience vote”

Senator Penny Wong

Marriage Equality and the Federal Election

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has declared he is Australia's first marriage-equality prime minister and is committed to marriage law reform. The deputy Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also supports Marriage Equality. The ALP Leader in the Senate, Penny Wong campaigns for same-sex marriage. She has said that Marriage Equality could become law in Australia if the Opposition leader, Tony Abbott allows LNP members of parliament a conscience vote.

At the time of writing this newsletter we do not know the date of the next Federal Election but it will certainly be in the next few months.

Now is the time to lobby the candidates in your constituency and explain to them why you want Marriage Equality.

There are compelling reasons why Marriage Equality is essential:

Same-sex attracted Australians want to be treated equally.

Same-sex couples want to marry for all the same reasons as their opposite-sex brothers and sisters.

Married partners have immediate access to all relationship entitlements and legal protections.

Marriage equality is in the best interests of children being raised by same-sex couples.

Marriage **inequality** fosters discrimination in other areas.

Australian Government announce new LGBTI phone counselling service



People of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status are set to benefit from the establishment of a new national mental health telephone counselling service.

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Senator Jacinta Collins said the Australian Government would provide \$3.3 million over two years to the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and

Intersex (LGBTI) Health Alliance to provide the *QLife* support service.

Senator Collins said a major part of *QLife* was its 1800 telephone peer support counselling service which was now available across Australia seven days a week between 5:30pm and 10:30pm on 1800 184 527.

QLife will also provide Self Help and a Web-based Support Program (Teleweb) via

its website. The service is being jointly delivered by the Alliance and five existing gay and lesbian counselling services in WA, Queensland, SA, Victoria and NSW.

The service will help people overcome the negative mental health impacts of discrimination, stigma and social isolation because of their sexual orientation, sex or gender. Find out more about QLife at: <http://www qlife.org.au/>

Action against Homophobia in Queensland Schools (AHQS)

This action group set up by PFLAG Brisbane to address homophobia and transphobia in Queensland schools is supported by teachers unions, P&Cs Qld, Family Planning, Queensland Police, Open Doors and Independent Schools.

The vision for the working group is: "That all Queensland schools are safe and inclusive for LGBTIQ students".

The goals for the working group are to:

1. Have Queensland government policy, guidelines and websites in place to prevent homophobia and

transphobia in Queensland schools.

2. Support the development of a "Safe Schools Coalition Queensland". And work towards a national safe schools program for Australia.
3. Promote LGBTIQ safe and friendly schools in Queensland. Until there is a website on which to list these schools, good stories can be promoted in newsletters and newspapers.
4. Promote Queensland and Commonwealth legislation that supports LGBTIQ inclusion and prohibits homophobic and transphobic discrimination.

5. Ensure there is training in place for teachers on LGBTIQ issues, both during their initial education and ongoing professional development.

6. Provide information to parents through the P&Cs and P&Fs.
7. Reach out and provide LGBTIQ awareness to cultural groups in Queensland.
8. Provide support information for LGBTIQ students in Queensland schools.
9. Promote gay straight alliances and safe places for LGBTIQ students to meet

Janet



"What R U having?"

An advertising billboard in Bowen Hills, Brisbane shows a smiling woman baring her pregnant belly, with the slogan, "Congratulations, you're having a lesbian".

It has generated considerable radio and television response.

The billboard was designed to bring awareness to the public that being lesbian or gay is not a choice, it's just the way you are born. Any parents can have a gay or lesbian child and marriage

equality can become a priority issue for them as their child grows up.

Billboard giant GOA has donated space for the advertisement, worth up to \$60,000, in Queensland. GOA managing director Chris Tyquin said he would ask interstate billboard companies to donate space as well. "I've got very close friends who have got children who are gay," he said. "If you have a child who walks in and tells you they're gay, you'd still love

them just as much as you did before."

The campaign is the brainchild of Steve Minon, a freelance advertising creative director from Brisbane, who donated his time. "It is designed to get people thinking, and challenge them a little," he said.

A YouTube video "What R U having" produced at the same time as the billboard advertisement has been watched by more than 300,000 people worldwide.



Transgender support group well-attended

About twenty five parents of transgender children turned up for the first meeting of the Transgender Support Group held last month. The parents appreciated the opportunity to share their stories and learn from each other's experiences. They chatted to each other for several hours and food and drink was provided.

PFLAG Brisbane has started this support group knowing there are many parents in Brisbane facing all the is-

issues associated with having a transgender child.

The next Transgender Support Meeting is on the 10 August at 1.30pm. Any parents who are struggling with a transgender child are welcome to come along.

For more details please phone Shelley on 0409 363 335 or email pflag-brisb@bigpond.com

Shelley

Help is also available from:

Queensland Association for Healthy Communities

<http://www.qahc.org.au/>

Transitioning FTM in Australia

<http://www.ftmaustralia.org/>

True Colours

<http://www.truecolours.org.au/>

Australian Transgender Support Association Queensland Inc.

<http://www.atsaq.com/>

Headspace - National Youth Mental Health Foundation

<http://www.headspace.org.au/parents-and-carers>

"Be what you WANT to be NOT what OTHERS want to SEE."

**These businesses support us
Please support them**



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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 can be of real benefit to you and your family, or simply call and book a time with one of us.

Phone: 3211 1117

Email: info@centreforhumanpotential.com.au

Michele Lindsay Queer Counsellor

Individual and relationship counselling

Mobile 0439 157 422 | Email mvlindsay@yahoo.com.au

Donations to PFLAG Brisbane can be made at any time via our website:
www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Or by direct deposit:
Account Name:
Brisbane PFLAG Inc.
BSB: 124-001
Account No: 2023-8607
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Kids Help Line

1800 55 1800 (24/7)

Lifeline

13 11 14 (24/7)



“Conservative PM David Cameron gave MPs a conscience vote & same-sex marriage is now law in the UK. Marriage equality happens when all MPs have a conscience vote.”

Senator Penny Wong



We did it together.
We made history happen.
Congratulations New Zealand, Marriage Equality has come.



“Dear Politicians, the choice to marry should be every family's right.”

VOTE LOVE
 australianmarriageequality.com

Kelly, Sam & Charlotte
 Perth



CAMPAIGN FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY NEW ZEALAND

“Dear Politicians, love is love and, while the old parties haven't recognised that yet, the Greens are standing up for marriage equality.”

Christine Milne
 Greens Senator Tasmania



“Some people are gay – get over it.
 #equalmarriage: girls/girls & guys/guys
 #putaringonit!!!!!!”

Danni Minogue



“Christians support marriage equality for a range of reasons including because we believe in commitment in relationships, we value equality and we respect human dignity.”

Reverend Mike Hercok
 Baptist Minister



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Twitter: Follow us on Twitter via [@PFLAGbris](https://twitter.com/PFLAGbris)



Our vision:

A society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

Our mission:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

- * support, to cope with an adverse society
- * education, to enlighten and inform all in the community
- * advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

What YOU can do to help make a difference.



1. **Buy a Tshirt.** We are getting some printed. Email treasurer@pflagbrisbane.org.au if you would like a Tshirt that supports PFLAG.
2. **Write to your State and Federal MP** or better still go and speak to them about marriage equality before the Federal Election.
3. **Volunteer to help with a PFLAG stall** at Lesbian Day, Gay Pride Day, the next marriage equality march or other events. Email secretary@pflagbrisbane.org.au if you can do this.
4. **Like us on Facebook!**

What's happening

- 3 August - PFLAG meeting, 30 Helen St, Teneriffe, Q 4006
- 18 August - Equal Love rally, 1pm Queens Park, Brisbane
- 1 September - Rainbow Labour Queensland community event
- 21 September - Gay Pride Day
- 5 October - PFLAG meeting, 30 Helen St, Teneriffe, Q 4006
- 13 October - International Lesbian Day.

