



# Newsletter

October/ November 2016

## WELCOME

When people come to PFLAG meetings they quickly realise that everyone's stories are different but, people are strong and able to be supportive of loved ones.

At the October meeting we met a lovely young woman who is supporting her brother while trying to shield their parents who are on a long overseas holiday. We all admired her strength and love of family, because that's what PFLAG is all about, keeping families united.

Most people who regularly attend meetings will say how they find support and comfort at the meetings. We have even had parents tell us, how they fully support their children but like to come along to the meetings because they can talk freely, even about the good things.

## NO PLEBISCITE!

This is a great cause for celebration in LGBTIQ circles as we have all been extremely fearful about how this campaign would end. Over the last several months PFLAG has worked tirelessly to ensure the Plebiscite never happens.

**The 11th October will go down in history as a great day for celebration.** The Government was intent on this path however, be assured there is/was **no such thing as a good or fair Plebiscite**. We did several Galaxy Polls that showed support in the general community and LGBTI people themselves.

Do not believe that it can now take up to 20 years before we see marriage equality. All that needs to happen is, Mr Turnbull to do what he believes to be correct, or a government change.

Personally, I have worked on achieving marriage equality for nine years and now we are just one step away - We cannot allow our children to be insulted or abused and now a Free Vote is much more respectful and not too far away.

## **WORK SITE TOOLBOX TALK BROCHURE**

This new brochure is aimed at tradesmen or workers on building sites or in public spaces and how homophobic comments and behaviours are no longer condoned or legal. This project was initiated from a traumatic experience that happened to a young male as he passed a building site in Brisbane earlier this year. Workers need to be aware that their Union cannot and will not stand with them should there be a complaint.

**So a very big Thank You to St Peter's Lutheran College, Social Justice Committee** for their donation, which covered most of the costs of printing.

## **SUPPORT FOR TRANS FAMILIES**

Our general meetings are beginning to change. These days we have more parents with trans\* children coming along to meetings than ever before. So don't feel you will be alone – please join us you are very welcome.

## **MARDI GRAS 2017**

We will soon be booking accommodation in Sydney for Mardi Gras. We usually book the Friday and Saturday which next year will be the 3rd and 4th March.

So if you are interested please make contact ASAP - you can email me on [\*\*pflagbris@bigpond.com\*\*](mailto:pflagbris@bigpond.com) We will need to know numbers and book accommodation early. We also need to know numbers so we can let PFLAG Sydney know how many will be marching because places are limited.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Our next meeting scheduled for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, will be the last for the year and our AGM. If you have any interest in being on the committee or feel you can contribute to improving the group, please let me know – you can email me on [\*\*pflagbris@bigpond.com\*\*](mailto:pflagbris@bigpond.com) or just turn up on the day and attend the meeting.

Antoneta, our secretary will be standing down due to an increased workload and study. So, if you would like to step up, we would love to have you on the committee.

**Date: Saturday, 3rd December**

**Time: 1.30pm**

**Place: 30 Helen St, Newstead**

Best Wishes,

**Shelley Argent**

President