



PFLAG Brisbane

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Newsletter November/December 2013

Hi Everyone

It's crazy how quickly this year has gone!

We find ourselves heading into the last meeting of the year on the 7th December. The PFLAG Brisbane AGM will be held prior to the general meeting so if you

are interested in helping progress the work of PFLAG we invite you to consider volunteering for a position on the committee. One of those positions will be newsletter editor as I will not be continuing in this role next year. I have enjoyed bring you newsy bits and pieces over the past few years.

On page 2 secretary Janet Berry highlights for you the progress that PFLAG Brisbane has made to instigate action against homo/transphobia in Queensland schools.

Shelley Argent is no longer the PFLAG national spokesperson but is still very much involved in community education and you can read of some of her work on page 3.

As Christmas approaches we need to take extra care of each other, share and be generous of spirit. I hope you and your families enjoy the festive season, and let's all look out for those people for whom this time of year brings added difficulties rather than added joy.

Cheers Pip ☺



The Next PFLAG Meeting is on 7th December at 1.30 pm. The meeting will be preceded by the AGM It will be held at QAHC 30 Helen St Teneriffe ALL WELCOME



Contact Us
Mail: PO Box 1372
Eagle Farm BC Qld 4009
Ph: 07 3017 1739
Mobile Helpline
0400 767 832
E: info@pflagbrisbane.org.au
W: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Kids Help Line
1800 55 1800 (24/7)

Lifeline
13 11 14 (24/7)

Gay & Lesbian Phone Line
1800 184 527 (7 to 10PM)



ACTION AGAINST HOMO/TRANSPHOBIA IN QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS

In April of this year, PFLAG Brisbane formed an action group to do something about the discrimination and bullying of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) students in Queensland schools.

We knew of many incidents where students had been bullied by their fellow students and in a few cases by teachers.

Our vision is that all Queensland schools are safe and inclusive for LGBTIQ students.

Our Goals are:

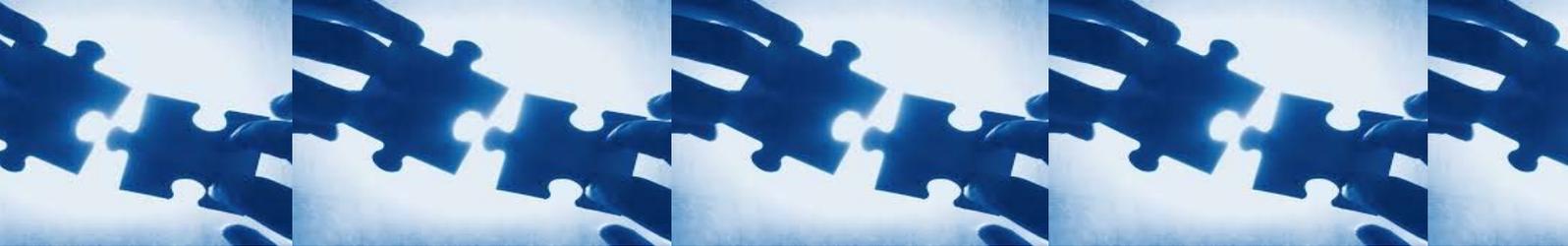
- Queensland government policy and/or guidelines as well as government websites are in place to support LGBTIQ students and prevent homophobia and transphobia in Queensland schools.
- A “Safe Schools Coalition Queensland” project delivering LGBTIQ safe and friendly schools in Queensland is developed and supported by Queensland government.
- Training for Queensland teachers on LGBTIQ issues is available, both during their initial education and ongoing professional development.
- Information is delivered to parents through the Parents & Citizen groups and Parents & Friends groups.
- Information is delivered to LGBTIQ students in Queensland schools.

The following organisations are represented on the action group. We have also contacted and held meetings with other groups. Everyone is supportive and very enthusiastic about the work we are doing.

- Queensland Teachers Union
- P&Cs Qld
- The Federation of Parents & Friends Associations of Catholic Schools in Queensland
- Independent Education Union of Australia – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch
- Independent Schools Queensland
- Family Planning Queensland
- Open Doors Youth Service
- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays – Brisbane
- Queensland Police

To see what Victoria have already achieved please visit their ‘Safe Schools Coalition Victoria’ website at:





Bits and Pieces from Shelley

I went to Sydney on the 8th Nov and spoke to Lend Lease to help them launch their Ally program. I gave a talk about Homophobia in the Workplace.



The LGBT Beyond Blue project will be officially launched in Melbourne by Governor General Quentin Bryce. I was on the establishment committee and the PFLAG Brisbane website will be a resource.

My husband Don was interviewed and will be on the Beyond Blue website which will be launched on 26th November.

Weblink:

<http://www.beyondblue.org.au/about-us/programs/lgbti-communities-program>



The new support group for parents of transgender is going well with numbers growing. The next meeting is on 30th Nov. and is at my home. Legislative changes are improving, making it easier for them to be themselves.

And, puberty blockers no longer need to be attained by accessing a Family Court decision but now can be an issue addressed between the doctor, parents and child.

Please phone me (Shelley) on 0409363335 if you or someone you know would like more details.

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If you would like to advertise in our newsletter please contact Donna by email president@pflagbrisbane.org.au



PFLAG and OPEN DOORS COLLABORATION

Open Doors Coordinator, Rocky recently approached PFLAG and requested assistance with a plan to extend the *JellyBeans* programme she runs for young transgender people.

The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month just for a bit of a social get together.

At the first gathering we discussed a budget for the programme, not such a fun topic but certainly a useful one!

PFLAG committee member Lynn then sent out an SOS to all PFLAG members to ask if anyone could help out with the second stage of the programme which was a much more fun topic - eating!!!

The first response she got was from a long time member, Veronica, who doesn't live locally but loved the idea so she kindly and generously donated \$200 to buy the ingredients for the cooking class.

Our own Deb Grading (committee member) offered to donate her time and skills to host the cooking class. Deb bought the ingredients and created a couple of menus and cooked and ran the show!

The feedback was great - all the youngsters really appreciated the time and effort that Deb put in and then the lovely Deb donated the ingredients.

So how wonderful for the JellyBeans programme as they still have the \$200 that Veronica donated to spend? As this programme receives no funding and relies heavily on donations from the community Rocky will no doubt put the much needed funds to good use.

A university placement student within Open Doors has created a fabulous little fun cookbook that has all Deb's great recipes in it. This will be put up on their website so that all the youngsters can access it at any time.

There are a couple more life skills that Rocky would like to pass on to the youngsters such as starting up their own little vegie patch, learning how to put on make up and how to dress according to body shape. Ultimately she'd like to have this all as a template that she can use year after year and pass on to all the different groups of youngsters that access Open Doors.

Considering that last year over 2000 youngsters went through those doors it certainly seems as though we have the opportunity to reach out and to help more than just our own children.

If anyone would like to help with this programme please email Lyn at either treasurer@pflagbrisbane.org.au or admin@opendoors.net.au.

<http://www.opendoors.net.au/>

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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.

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Donations to PFLAG can be made at any time via our website
www.pflagbrisbane.org.au
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Keeping Families Together

PFLAG is very proactive in promoting acceptance and understanding of people who disclose their sexual diversity to family and loved ones. Parents often feel isolated, confused or angry when their loved one 'comes out' and this is an important area where PFLAG can offer assistance.

**Join us at our meetings, held every 2 months or contact us by
phone: 0400 767 832 or email: info@pflagbrisbane.org.au**

PFLAG Brisbane Annual Membership Form

Please complete the form below and return to PFLAG.

You can also pay online - www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Larger donations are always welcome. Thanks for your support.

Memberships are for a financial year and entitle you to full voting rights at the AGM plus the ability to serve on the committee. Corporate membership includes website and newsletter advertising.

Name: _____

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Membership Type:

Family - \$25.00 annually - I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order made out to PFLAG Brisbane Inc.

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