

# PFLAG Newsletter

May/June 2016

## Welcome!

*Welcome to the June/May 2016  
edition of our PFLAG Newsletter!*

We are now well into 2016 with plenty of happening with PFLAG. The committee are working well as a team and we continue to welcome new parents to the bi-monthly meetings.

As usual, a reminder to everyone if you are seeking information or referrals for any special needs relating to LGBTI please feel free to make contact and I/we will help you as much as we can.



### Put on your calendar...

**A barbecue will be held at Shelley Argent's home on the 18<sup>th</sup> June.**

Visiting PFLAG parents from Austin, Texas in the US are coming along to tell us about how parents in the USA react when learning their children are LGBTI.

If you are interested in attending please drop Shelley an email [pflagbris@bigpond.com](mailto:pflagbris@bigpond.com)

## Open Doors Morning Tea

If you are interested in attending **Open Doors Morning Tea** will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm in **Constance St, The Valley**. This is an opportunity for PFLAG parents to support the parents of youth that access Open Door services.



### NEXT MEETING:

Date: **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Time: **1.30pm**

Place: **30 Helen Street,  
Newstead**

### Have you visited our website yet?

All our resources have been updated and are available to download now. The site also has links to our previous newsletters, community services and other websites families may find helpful <http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au>



# Marriage Equality

*Love is love is love. Whether a man loves a woman, a woman loves a woman, or a man loves a man, it really makes no difference.*

As National Spokesperson I **have been inserting advertisements into the Australian paper every second Friday**. I have been doing this from my personal funds and of course they are very expensive; However, I feel this is the best and easiest way to let conservative Australia see why a Plebiscite is so wrong and **we need a Free Vote to decide the issue of marriage equality**.

If you would like to be supportive and provide some funding yourself I have a special account that I am using just for the PFLAG Fighting Fund.

My logic is we cannot wait for others to work for the rights of our children and we cannot put a price on our children's rights, which is why I am using personal funds to bring change.

**Bank of Qld.  
BSB 124 006  
Account 2239 5649**

Any funds deposited will just be used for the marriage equality campaign. It is not any of our personal accounts.

## Myths debunked here...

**Myth:** Same-sex parents harm children.

**The Argument:** Most hard-line anti-gay organisations are heavily invested, from both a religious and a political standpoint, in promoting the traditional nuclear family as the sole framework for the healthy upbringing of children. They maintain a reflexive belief that same-sex parenting must be harmful to children — although the exact nature of that supposed harm varies widely.

**The Facts:** No legitimate research has demonstrated that same-sex couples are any more or any less harmful to children than heterosexual couples.

The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry affirmed in 2013 that "[c]urrent research shows that children with gay and lesbian parents do not differ from children with heterosexual parents in their emotional development or in their relationships with peers and adults" and they are "not more likely than children of heterosexual parents to develop emotional or behavioral problems."

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in a 2002 policy statement declared: "A growing body of scientific literature demonstrates that children who grow up with one or two gay and/or lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social, and sexual functioning as do children whose parents are heterosexual." That policy statement was reaffirmed in 2009 and in 2013, when the AAP stated its support for civil marriage for same-gender couples and full adoption and foster care rights for all parents, regardless of sexual orientation. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2011/10-anti-gay-myths-debunked>

# Queensland PFLAG News Round-up

By Shelley Argent



## Civil Partnerships in Queensland

Many thanks to Jenny Cram who came along to the last meeting to explain Civil Partnerships in Queensland. Jenny has been a marriage celebrant for the last 10 years, plus a celebrant permitted to provide this service to same sex couples.

Civil Partnerships became legal once again on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. The new legislation permits a ceremony, which is great, but sadly is only recognised in a couple of States outside of Queensland.

At the moment Civil Partnerships are attracting little attention. However, should marriage equality not eventuate in this country, I think many will take advantage of civil partnerships.



## Kingaroy PFLAG meeting

Deb Grading and I travelled to Kingaroy mid-April. We were warmly welcomed by quite a large group of people in the LGBTI community and the community generally.

It was so nice to see people in Johs' territory feeling free to be themselves. Many of us will remember the time when Joh believed pre-1990 there were no LGBTI in Queensland...

## Toowoomba Marriage Equality Forum

Mid-April I travelled with Rodney Croome and Sharon Dane from Australia Marriage Equality to give talks at two forums in Toowoomba. Again, we had large groups attend.

I really believe it's important that we, the parents be part of the marriage equality debate because it's all about our sons and daughters and their rights.

We did have a very small group of people who opposed our views, but I was so pleased that the audience remained calm, let them say what they had to say and then leave. Debate would have been pointless.

## St. Peters Lutheran School

Many thanks to the students of the Social Justice group who fundraised for PFLAG Brisbane and donated \$1000 to us – Thank you!

This money will go towards brochures discussing how homophobia on work sites is no longer condoned and bosses and unions will not be able to protect them - But is a protection for our sons and daughters!

## Safe School Coalition

Unfortunately, this program has been getting negative press thanks to groups who neither understand the impact transitioning has on our children and us as parents.

Sadly, they are seeing demons and problems with information that is being taken out of context.

The program is voluntary in State High Schools and is invaluable for teachers to understand the problems that confront trans\* children on a daily basis.

## VICTORIA TO SPEND \$15 MILLION ON A NEW 'PRIDE CENTRE' FOR THE LGBTI COMMUNITY

*"Equality is not negotiable in Victoria. Discrimination is wrong in any form - and that's not negotiable either."*



"It takes some intelligence and insight to figure out you're gay and then a tremendous amount of balls to live it and live it proudly."

- Jason Bateman



Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself.

- Harvey Fierstein



"If being gay is a choice, at what point was choosing to be straight an option?"

- Unknown

A centre catering exclusively to the needs of the LGBTI community will be built in Melbourne by the Victorian Government, it has been revealed.

The state government has put aside \$15 million in next week's budget for the establishment of a Pride Centre, [BuzzFeed News](#) reports.

The centre, slated to be built within the CBD, will become a hub for the LGBTI community, offering information, health and support services. Support for LGBTI health issues such as gender dysphoria will be provided.

It's an issue that's high on the Victorian Government's agenda, with another \$6.4 million in the 2016 budget to be spent for extra services that assist people with gender dysphoria.

**"Victoria is doing what every other state government should be doing - and what the Commonwealth should be doing,"** Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews (pictured) told [BuzzFeed News](#).

"Everyone in our state should have the right to feel respected and safe in being exactly who they are," he said.

The Victorian AIDS Council welcomed the announcement, saying it was "fantastic" that such an investment was being made into supporting the state's LGBTI community.

"It's been a long time since the state government has funded infrastructure to support LGBTI communities in Victoria," said VAC CEO Simon Ruth.

"I've spent time at similar centres in San

Francisco and New York and I've seen how those spaces can become hubs for LGBTI communities.

"We have some incredible LGBTI community organisations in Victoria, and it's so important to have the autonomy of an LGBTI-run space where we can come together and support each other, as well as provide a safe, welcoming space for our community members."

The announcement of a Pride Centre is part of a broader push by the Andrew Government to position the state as the progressive capital of Australia.

Victoria has the country's first Equality Minister (Martin Foley), as well as the first Sexuality and Gender Commissioner (Rowena Allen).

More recently, Victoria has remained steadfast in its support of the Safe Schools program, defying a push by the Federal Government to water it down.

Andrews is also a strong supporter of marriage equality.

"Equality is not negotiable in Victoria. Discrimination is wrong in any form - and that's not negotiable either," Andrews told [BuzzFeed News](#).

"Everyone in our state should have the right to be who they are and marry who they love."

**ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM: Gay News Network**

<http://gaynewsnetwork.com.au/news/victoria/victoria-to-spend-15-million-on-a-new-pride-centre-for-the-lgbti-community-20984.html>



# PFLAG wants to know: “How can we help you?”



- Do you need help with referrals for your child?
- Do you need help with schools that aren't supportive?
- Do you need buddy support?
- What else (if possible) can we help you with?

Email: [pflagbris@bigpond.com](mailto:pflagbris@bigpond.com)

Mobile: 0400 767 832

## PFLAG MEMBERSHIP FORM

First Name:	
Last name:	
Email:	

Type of membership

Individual / Family ☐ \$25

Corporate ☐ \$100

*Please make checks payable to: PFLAG Brisbane  
Address: PO Box 1372, Eagle Farm BC QLD 4009*

*Or, you can transfer your membership directly into our bank account Bank of Queensland*

**BSB: 124 011 Account#: 20 238 607**

*Please reference your transfer as “PFLAG Membership” and your name*

Would you like to receive e-newsletter? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like to receive emails letting you know about upcoming PFLAG events? Yes ☐ No ☐

**We would like to know how we could improve our visibility to families...**

**How did you hear about us?**

Friend <input type="checkbox"/>	Our website <input type="checkbox"/>	School/ School Counsellor <input type="checkbox"/>
Relative <input type="checkbox"/>	GP/Doctor's rooms <input type="checkbox"/>	Another PFLAG member <input type="checkbox"/>
Another organisation <input type="checkbox"/>	Which organisation?	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Please let us know how you heard about us?	