



PFLAG Brisbane

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Newsletter September 2013



<http://www.pflagbrisbane.org>

WELL DONE ACT



“It is a bill that says people in a same-sex relationship are able to have their love and commitment to each other legally recognised in the same way that people in a heterosexual relationship are able to through a legally recognised marriage”

Simon Corbell
ACT Attorney-General

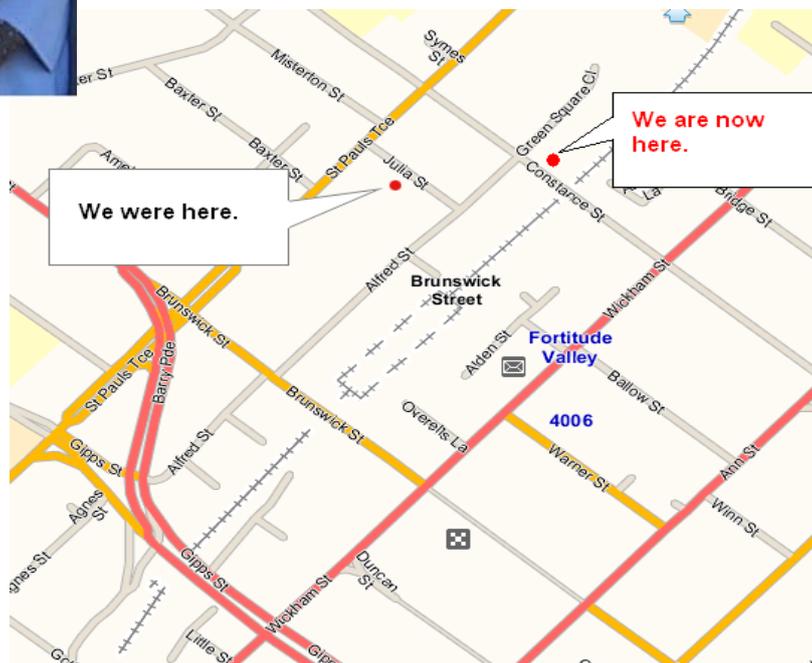
The Next PFLAG Meeting is on 12th October at 1.30 pm. It will be held at Open Doors 5 Greensquare Close Fortitude Valley

Address details for Open Doors below. Limited street parking but there is a parking station nearby.



Kids Help Line
1800 55 1800 (24/7)

Lifeline
13 11 14 (24/7)





MEDIA RELEASE

22nd September, 2013

It's time for change in the PFLAG Hierarchy

I have decided to step down as National Spokesperson for PFLAG for health reasons. I have lobbied State and Federal Parliaments for the last 13 years and been National Spokesperson for the last 7 years.

I feel now that we have a new federal government it is an ideal time to pass the mantle to Donna Goddard who is a superb appointment and comes with fresh ideas and lots of enthusiasm.

I feel I have not only seen change in the last 14 years but have been part of bringing some of these changes for the betterment of the LGBT community and PFLAG.

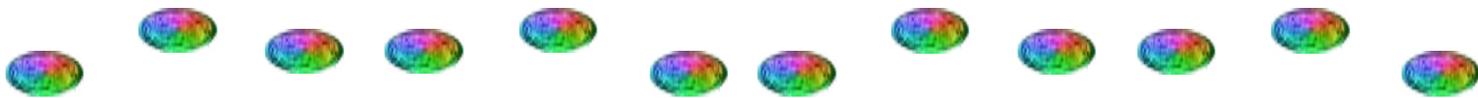
I am proud to have been part of gaining de facto rights with Peter Beattie as Premier, Surrogacy/ Parental Recognition and Civil Partnerships with Anna Bligh.

I was also very proud to be associated with removal of Economic Discrimination when Kevin Rudd was PM, and bringing Marriage Equality to the fore while John Howard, Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard were respectively PM. Not surprisingly, I am tired.

I plan to still be a vital part of PFLAG by continuing to do community education and general support. I also plan to continue my relationship with the transcommunity, again by supporting their families and the Gender Clinic here in Brisbane.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me, I have made true friends and my life has changed for the better since 1998 when I entered the LGBT community in Brisbane.

Shelley Argent



Good News from Gladstone

The Gladstone Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association (PCYC) in Queensland will hold an awareness day for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) groups after receiving a \$4525 FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grant.

For the first time ever, Heywire partnered with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal to give communities around Australia the opportunity to implement Heywire ideas with up to \$70 000 in seed funding.

The Gladstone PCYC will hold 'Breaking Down the Door Day', an idea devised at the 2013 Heywire Summit that aims to create and build acceptance for LGBT groups.

PCYC Gladstone Youth Worker, Anna Witty, says after attending National Youth Week 2013, it was clear that there was no support for young LGBT people in Gladstone.

"I began a LGBT support group at PCYC but we're having difficulty connecting our community and getting people aware that it is available for them.

The grant and community awareness day should hopefully raise awareness of the support group that is available in the community."

Witty says the PCYC 'Breaking Down the Door Day' event will replicate the original idea developed by the Heywire Summit participants, with entertainment such as an indoor roller derby and a film discussing the grey areas of sexuality.

"We haven't massively changed it, we really liked the original suggestion of the farmer's market, we want to keep it free as that attracts a lot of people, lots of food and activities for younger children as that attracts families."

Witty says the activities should re-inforce the fact that despite sexual diversity, everyone should be treated the same.

"One of the ideas that we have come up with is a stall where people can design some kind of mask,

everybody looks different but we are all the same underneath, it doesn't matter what your sexuality is, we're all the same and I don't understand why being LGBT should mean that you look a person differently, I mean you're still the same person you went to Maccas with last week."

Witty hopes the event will unite the community and even encourage other young people to join the PCYC LGBT support group.

"We would really like to bring the community together and publicly show their acceptance of all, if at the same time we can increase the numbers of people who attend our peer support group that would be fantastic, we just really want to show that Gladstone is just as accepting as the larger urban areas."

PCYC youth worker Anna Witty wants the event to promote the fact everybody looks different, "but we're all the same underneath".

"Gladstone is a working, male-dominated town, but we are moving with the times and have up-to-date views and opinions."

The PCYC has a support group called Diverse where people who identify as LGBT can hang out and feel safe and comfortable.

Diverse meets on fortnightly Thursdays in the meeting room.

The Gladstone region also has a support group on Facebook, which has a following of more than 400 people.

The grant will help make the family fun day a free event held at the PCYC with activities for little kids as well as young adults

Gladstone PCYC

6th December

Capricornia PFLAG takes Positive Steps

Take-A-Step went ahead at Rockhampton South High School recently. Chris Pye Relationships Australia (RAQ) Brisbane led this and it was a successful week. A Fun Run, events and activities were held. Various stall holders came and set up undercover. Some of these were Rockhampton Council Library & Youth services, PCYC, Anti-Discrimination Rockhampton, RAQ Rockhampton, Pflag Capricornia (us). RAQ Rockhampton supplied a BBQ and all was free on the day. There was fruit and water bottles, face painting, bands, clown, among other activities.



Showing True Colours at Pride Fair 2013



Brunswick Street was closed off for the Pride Rally for the very first time, a large crowd gathered in front of a massive rainbow flag hanging off the side of the Empire Hotel for a rally and a 1.7-kilometre march down to a fair at New Farm Park.

Pride Festival president Deeje Hancock estimated the rally started with about 800 people marching down Brunswick Street towards New Farm Park.

“The march picked up along the way,” he said.

“What started as a march about a block long, by the time we got to the Fair Day at New Farm Park, on the corner of Brunswick and Sydney streets, it was 2½ blocks.

“People were just coming in from the sidewalk and joining in.”

Mr Hancock said the event’s theme – “show your true colours” – was about celebration, not activism.

“Politics hasn’t come into it and we try to keep this day as apolitical as possible,” he said.

“This is a day of celebration. At the moment, yes, we do have to fight for equality of love and gay marriage and these are important things, but today is really about celebrating what has been achieved.

“In 1988, our bicentennial year, I would not be here talking to you – I would be illegal in this state.

“So it’s an amazing couple of decades we’ve been through and we’ve got real cause to celebrate, whilst not letting go of the fight to equality.”

Many in the LGBTI community were active in the lead-up to the federal election campaigning for marriage equality.

But Mr Hancock said the election of the Abbott government should not dishearten those who want change.

We need to show them it’s simply unfair the relationship I have can’t be recognised the same way as my heterosexual brother-in-law’s relationship, for example.”

That acceptance was perhaps demonstrated by the fact Liberal National Party member Robert Cavallucci – the state MP for Brisbane Central – officially launched the march.

Mr Cavallucci, who has previously stated his support for marriage equality, said he was happy to lend his support to the Pride Festival.

“Primarily the reason I’m down here and celebrating today’s Pride Festival is because I am the local member for the area it’s taking place,” he said.

“... I was really pleased to be invited and to participate in today’s event because I’ve always been a strong supporter of the diverse communities that make up the wonderful fabric of the inner-city.”

Read more: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/brisbane-shows-true-colours-at-pride-rally-20130921-2u6ig.html#ixzz2fqOULEM>

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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 calendar 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: _____

Ph: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Membership Type:

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

Corporate - \$100.00 annually - (includes website and newsletter 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

Bring to: 30 Helen St, Teneriffe 4006

Pay Online: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Pay direct deposit: Account Name - Brisbane PFLAG Inc.

BSB - 124-001

Account No - 2023-8607

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Please make sure you provide us with your contact details (name, email and /or postal address so we can receipt your payment and ensure you receive our newsletters.