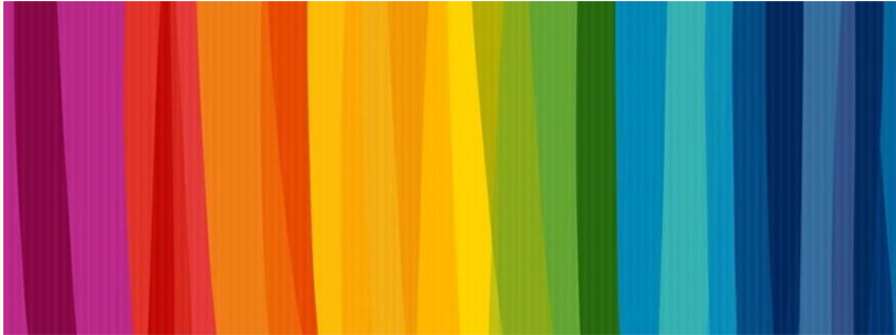


# USQ ALLY

## Network Newsletter



Issue #35 April 2019



We hope you have had a relaxing Easter break and that you are ready for another busy time of it in the USQ Ally space. We have some great activities and events coming up including IDAHOBIT on 16/17th May, LGBTIQ training and an Ally natter.

If you have any ideas you would like to put forward to the network, such as topics or speakers for the Natters, or interesting articles, professional development or networking opportunities, please forward to us by emailing: [Ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:Ally@usq.edu.au)

### Join the Honourable Michael Kirby at Toowoomba campus

You are invited to attend a lunch with the Honourable Michael Kirby. Michael Kirby has been a long-time advocate for LGBTIQ rights, and in 2018 Allies enjoyed an audience with him, hearing him speak on topical issues, including the flying of the rainbow flag and marriage equality. He has been gracious in granting us another opportunity this year.

**Where:** VCCR (B Block) Toowoomba campus

**When:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 12-1pm

Please RSVP to [ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:ally@usq.edu.au) by **30th April** and provide any dietary requirements.



### USQ Ally Network Natter

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 12.30-1.30pm

H321 Ipswich

'Living Outside the Binary' – *Ash Polzin*

Ash is a queer, nonbinary human services student at USQ, as well as a founding member of USQ Pride. They are also a mental health consumer representative, and will be speaking about the unique challenges nonbinary people face compared to their binary transgender peers - with a healthy dose of humour along the way.

To register your interest in attending at USQ Ipswich please email [ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:ally@usq.edu.au). If you are unable to attend in person, you can register to watch the presentation live online [here](#).

If you are reading a hard copy of this newsletter and wish to access the links,  
please go to

<https://www.usq.edu.au/current-students/support/lgbtiq-community>

## In the News



### 'We wouldn't change a thing': Sydney foster fathers share their journey

Patrick and David are the lucky foster fathers of three beautiful girls, thanks to **Lifestyle Solutions**. 'When David and I decided we wanted to start a family together, we thought what better way to give back to the community than to take in children that were in desperate need of a loving and caring home,' says Patrick. [MORE](#)

## Celebrating lex/bi achievement for Lesbian Day of Visibility

On Friday 26 April 2019, known internationally as Lesbian Day Of Visibility, DIVA Power List returns – and it's bigger and better than ever! While lesbian, bisexual and trans women are more visible than ever before—whether that's within the realm of business, politics, the arts, the media, sport or anywhere else—in some circles, our voices remain marginalised, and our life experiences dismissed. [MORE](#)



### Queensland paramedic Jennifer shares her story for the Transgender Day of Visibility

A Queensland paramedic has opened up about her gender transition and the "support and love" she received from colleagues in a powerful Facebook post on the International Transgender Day of Visibility.

March 31 has been recognised as the International Transgender Day of Visibility since 2009, and it's a [day to celebrate the lives and achievements of trans and gender diverse people](#) in the community. [MORE](#)

## Same-sex wedding expo to be held in Brisbane next month

Brisbane's third same-sex weddings expo will be held at the Brisbane Powerhouse on May 5, with free entry and all couples warmly welcomed. The Same Same Weddings Expo will run from 10am to 3pm and is hosted by Paddington Publications, the publishers of Brisbane Bride Magazine and Australia's first same-sex wedding magazine *Same Same Weddings*. [MORE](#)



## Entertainment



### Georgie Stone to play first transgender character on 'Neighbours'

Trans youth advocate Georgie Stone has signed on for a role on long-running TV soap *Neighbours* as the show's first transgender character.

The 18-year-old told the *Daily Telegraph* she scored the gig after pitching herself for the role to executive producer Jason Herbison last year. She said she was thrilled to receive a reply back from Herbison after sending suggestions for ideas of how a trans young person could appear on the show. [MORE](#)

## Events



### SAVE THE DATE — IDAHOBIT

IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia ). An opportunity to learn about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) people, while decorating cupcakes and having a chat!

**Where:** QUAD Toowoomba, Walkway, Springfield and Challinor court, Ipswich

**When:** 11am-1pm—Toowoomba Friday 17th May, Springfield and Ipswich Thursday 16th May (due to public holiday)

## LGBTIQ Awareness Training

Know anyone who wants to become an Ally? Tell them about our upcoming 2019 training dates.

**Where:** Online webinar

**When:** Tuesday 30th April 10am-12.30pm

**How?** You can now register for the April session or email [ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:ally@usq.edu.au) for more information



## FREE TRAINING USQ STUDENTS!

Ever wondered what to do if someone close to you was having a mental health emergency? Could you recognise the early warning signs of a mental health problem? Would know where to send someone for help? Interested in having a mental health qualification to add to your resume?

Mental health first aid is the help provided to a person who is developing a mental health problem or who is in a mental health crisis. Like physical first aid, mental health first aid is given until the person receives professional help or until the crisis resolves.

USQ is offering FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING to all students over the age of 18. This two day training program will teach you:

- How to recognise the signs and symptoms of mental health problems
- To help people in the early stages of these problems
- Where and how to refer people to get help
- Understand what types of help are effective
- Know how to assist in a mental health crisis until professional help arrives.

To register email [mhfa@usq.edu.au](mailto:mhfa@usq.edu.au)

Accredited to deliver MHFA  
Courses by MHFA Australia



## Resources

### SafeZone App

Safety is important for all of us. SafeZone is a free app that connects you directly with the University's Campus Security team or Emergency Services. SafeZone is available free for all staff and students. This is a safety app for your phone which allows you to request assistance from USQ Campus Security easily and discreetly. Download it, and log in with your uni email address! [MORE](#)



# Support Services



## QLife/Diverse Voices

QLife is Australia's first nationally-oriented counselling and referral service for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex (LGBTI). QLife provides nation-wide, early intervention, peer supported telephone and web based services to people of all ages across the full breadth of people's bodies, genders, relationships, sexualities, and lived experiences.

3:00pm to midnight in your state, around Australia, every day.

**CALL 1800 184 527**

**ONLINE CHAT**

## PFLAG

A support group for the family and friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Agender and other diverse people.



### Toowoomba

Phone: 0478 735 242

Email: [pflagtoowoomba@gmail.com](mailto:pflagtoowoomba@gmail.com)



### Brisbane

Phone: 0400 767 832

<http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/contact-us>



### Ipswich

Supporting our GLBTIQ community, their families and friends

<https://www.facebook.com/pflagipswich>

## The Pinnacle Foundation

The Pinnacle Foundation has been established to provide

scholarships to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer students who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

[READ MORE](#)



## Open Doors

Open Doors provides Advocacy and support

services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual and/or transgender, Intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) young people aged 12 to 24 and their families who live in South East Queensland.

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

**My Big Gay Family** My Big Gay Family is a safe, inclusive space to explore and celebrate the depth and diversity of all LGBTIQ families. [Informed. Connected. Empowered.](#)



## Relationships Australia—Rainbow Program

Relationships Australia, Ipswich and Toowoomba, now provides The Rainbow Program,

striving to support the mental health and wellbeing of people of diverse bodies, genders and sexualities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & intersex (LGBTI) people, as well as those questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation. Includes counselling and support groups. <http://www.raq.org.au/services/rainbow-program>



**Our House Our Haven** Inc. is a brand new registered charity organisation based in Ipswich. They are a nurse-led clinic providing care, psychotherapy and different treatment options for chronic and crisis mental health clients. Where staff are trained in supporting those who identify as LGBTIQ+ <https://www.ohoh.org.au/>

