

USQ ALLY

Network Newsletter



Issue #42 November 2019



Welcome to the end of the year! We hope 2019 has treated you well, and that you have some pleasant plans for between now and 2020. The USQ Ally Network will still be here chugging along during semester 3, specifically active in offering LGBTIQ+ Awareness Training. Just a reminder that they are online webinars that will take place on a Wednesday between 10am-12.30pm. If you know anyone who wants to become an Ally, please pass on these dates and the webinar links!

[11th December 2019](#)

[22nd January 2020](#)

[12th February 2020](#)

We have already had our first successful session on Wednesday 13th November, and are pleased to welcome our new Allies who are registering following on from this!

This will be the last newsletter of the year, but we will be sending out the first one for 2020 in January. We understand that many of you will be enjoying a break from the university over the next months, but please don't forget that we are always on the look out for interesting articles, information about events and professional development opportunities to include in the Ally newsletter. Please email ally@usq.edu.au to share your points of interest.

In the meantime, wishing you a safe and pleasant December, and we look forward to engaging with you in 2020!



**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>

where this and past editions are posted.

In the News



Michael Kirby slams Morrison government's religious discrimination bill

Former High Court judge Michael Kirby has said the Morrison government's "unbalanced" draft religious discrimination bill will lead to "intolerance and hostility" in Australian society. In a letter to the Australian Law Journal, Kirby said the bill was born of "hostile religious assertions of a minority of conservative politicians" after same-sex marriage passed in 2017. [MORE](#)

New research shows religious debates taking heaving toll

New research shows that LGBTIQ Australians feel the current social situation, with the ongoing religious freedom debates, is worse now than during the 2017 same-sex marriage debate. A survey conducted by LGBTIQ advocacy group, just.equal shows that LGBTIQ Australians and their allies feel the current religious discrimination and transgender debates are "payback" for marriage equality. However, the survey also indicates that this is only one reason that LGBTIQ Australians feel under attack. [MORE](#)



Police in Uganda arrest 120 LGBTIQ people in bar raid

Police in Uganda have arrested around 120 LGBTIQ people in a raid on a bar known as a safe haven for the queer community in the African country. The raid happened at the RAM Bar in Uganda's capital Kampala, during a weekly LGBTIQ gathering at the venue. [MORE](#)

Students stage walkout after high school threatens to out classmate

Dozens of students at a California Catholic high school staged a walkout after teachers threatened to out a gay classmate to her parents if she didn't attend counselling due to her sexual orientation. [MORE](#)



Sport



Alan Jones criticises Folau, after rugby star links bushfires to marriage equality

Sacked Wallabies star Israel Folau has yet again caused controversy with comments about homosexuality, this time linking the bushfire crisis and drought in NSW and Queensland to same-sex marriage. In a sermon posted to the Facebook page of the Truth of Jesus Christ Church Sydney, Folau said the fires were related to passing of marriage equality in Australia, and the recent legalisation of abortion in NSW. [MORE](#)

Entertainment

LGBT group pushes for 20 percent of all television characters be LGBT by 2025

A major gay rights organization is pushing for 20 percent of all television characters to be LGBT by the year 2025. According to a report called "Where We Are on TV", which was released from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the presence of characters who identify as LGBT in television programming is key to changing hearts and minds in culture. [MORE](#)



'Finally I can be myself': Sense8 actor comes out as gay

Sense8 actor Brian J Smith has publicly come out as gay, revealing he hid his sexuality from his family until he was 30. The Tony Award-nominated star has opened up to *Attitude* magazine, revealing how "terrified" he was growing up gay in a small town in Texas. [MORE](#)

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



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



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>



Black Rainbow is Australia's first and only National ATSI LGBTQI Suicide Prevention National Advocacy Platform. They support LGBTQI ATSI people who are homeless, leaving DV relationships or in the justice system.

[CONTACT](#) or their [Facebook Page](#)

www.blackrainbow.org.au

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/>



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/>

