

# USQ ALLY

## Network Newsletter



Issue #40 September 2019



**IPSWICH WEAR IT PURPLE DAY**



**SPRINGFIELD BI VISIBILITY DAY**

September already and soon it will be Christmas! Hopefully everyone has plans for some R&R in coming months, it's been a big year. Allies across the three USQ campuses have been attending events to promote, support and embrace LGBTIQ staff and students. Wear it Purple Day, Bi Visibility Day were celebrated recently. Toowoomba's Wear it Purple Day encouraged visitors to the stall to write messages of support to LGBTIQ youth. We had an overwhelmingly positive response. Some of the statements included "You are loved!" and "You are important" and "It gets better". Messages of support and hope from our community. We would love to expand on this for next year, encouraging all areas of the university to live out the values of diversity and inclusion.

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](mailto:ally@usq.edu.au) to share your points of interest.

### **USQ Ally Network Natter** Wednesday 2nd October, 12.30-1.30pm, B154 Springfield

#### **'Diverse Voices/QLife Services and Life after Marriage Equality' – Yvonne O'Callaghan**

Diverse Voices is one of four state-based counselling services that works in partnership with QLife in providing a national peer-based telephone and webchat service for our diverse communities. After 24yrs of being with her partner, Yvonne was able to legally get married last March. She works as a QLife Program Coordinator for Diverse Voices and her main role is to recruit and train new volunteer peer supporters. She liaises with service providers and attends community events to share the wonderful work that their peer supporters do. By doing this she hopes to promote and raise awareness of this important national LGBTIQ service provider. After an overview of QLife and Diverse Voices, Yvonne will be sharing her personal story about how the marriage equality plebiscite impacted on her life and those around her. Yvonne was the guest speaker for our inaugural USQ Ally Network Natter back in 2016! We are excited to hear how things have progressed for her since then.

To register your interest in attending at USQ Springfield, 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> where this and past editions are posted.

## In the News



### UQ academics back transgender students after dean's comments

Academics at the University of Queensland's law school have pledged support for transgender and gender diverse students after comments from the head of school. Professor Patrick Parkinson is dean of UQ's TC Beirne School of Law. He recently told a religious freedom conference faith schools should be allowed to reject a student's gender identity after they transition. Parkinson claimed principals may have a "crisis of conscience" if they "genuinely believe" it isn't in the student's best interests to affirm their gender identity. [MORE](#)

### Merriam-Webster adds non—binary pronoun 'they' to dictionary

Merriam-Webster has officially added the non-binary definition of "they" to its dictionary. The dictionary now defines "they" as "used to refer to a single person whose gender identity is non binary," along with three other definitions. Merriam-Webster's definition for pronoun "themselves" also states it is "now used chiefly in place of 'himself or herself' as a gender-neutral reflexive form of 'they' when the reference is to a single person". [MORE](#)



### Happy Pride from Brisbane Pride President Rebecca Johnson

Brisbane Pride President, Rebecca Johnson is currently on secondment to the UN in Geneva. She sends this message to all on our most important celebration of the year. To all LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl and Brotherboy people, our loyal Allies, and also the wider Community. Brisbane Pride Month and Fair Day is about Recognition and Self-Determination of all individuals. Take time for you, and above all, be Proud of who you are and the values you represent. [MORE](#)

## Sport

### Homophobic & Sexist Language in sport: Monash Research



World-first research by Monash University examines motivations for homophobic and sexist slurs in sport and potential solutions. Researchers presented their findings at the Tenth annual International Conference on Sport & Society at the Ryerson University in Toronto Canada. Erik Denison, lead researcher of the Sports Inclusion Project gave an insight into the findings. Erik Denison said his team chose hockey for the study as a world leading sport in terms of showing support for the LGBT community. "The National Hockey League is the only sport league in the world where every single team holds pride games. Those games raise awareness of the discrimination LGBT people experience. We also wanted to research hockey because it remains the only major pro sport to never have a gay athlete come out either while playing or in retirement. This seemed odd to us because of the NHL's proactive approach in this space. [MORE](#)

## Events

### Coastal Twist 2019—4th, 5th & 6th October

Coastal Twist 2019 is the first National Visibility LGBTIQ Arts & Culture festival for Central Coast NSW & we are very excited to deliver a diverse piece of creative pie to entice all tastes! This year our focus is back to our roots with "Loud and Proud", we are pushing for diversity as the norm and we have been working hard as volunteers creating safe and inclusive spaces for self-expression which inspire authentic originality & celebrate unique and diverse imaginings & realities. [MORE](#)



## Entertainment

### Transgender man reunites with his dad on This Time Next Year

New South Wales transgender man Markus has proved a lot can change in 12 months during his appearance on TV program This Time Next Year. He first appeared on Channel Nine...before his transition, vowing to host Karl Stefanovic to be living as his true self within the next 12 months. Markus explained he could never accept himself while identifying as female. [MORE](#)



**Next Month...** Keep an eye out for photos and a story from USQ's involvement in University Unity at Brisbane Pride...



### Pride Foundation Australia



Pride Foundation Australia (PFA—formerly GALFA) is a national philanthropic foundation specifically focused on funding LGBTQIA+ community issues in Australia. The foundation actively works to increase philanthropic support for the Australian LGBTQIA+ Australians, including advocating for systemic change. Pride Foundation Australia offers both Major Grants and Small Grants (up to \$500), each with specific eligibility and criteria.

The Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia (GALFA) began in 2004. GALFA became operational in 2007. In January 2019 GALFA changed its name to Pride Foundation Australia to more accurately reflect the focus on the whole LGBTQIA+ Community. <https://pridefoundation.org.au/>

## 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)

**Next course Oct 3rd & 4th 9-4:30 both days in Ipswich M101**

## 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

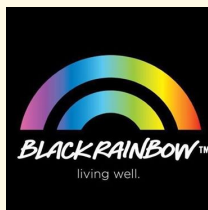
<http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/contact-us>



Ipswich

Supporting our GLBTIQ community, their families and friends

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



**Black Rainbow** is Australia's first and only National ATSI LGBTQTI Suicide Prevention National Advocacy Platform. They support LGBTQTI ATSI people who are homeless, leaving DV relationships or in the justice system. [CONTACT](#) or their [Facebook Page](#)

## 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/>

