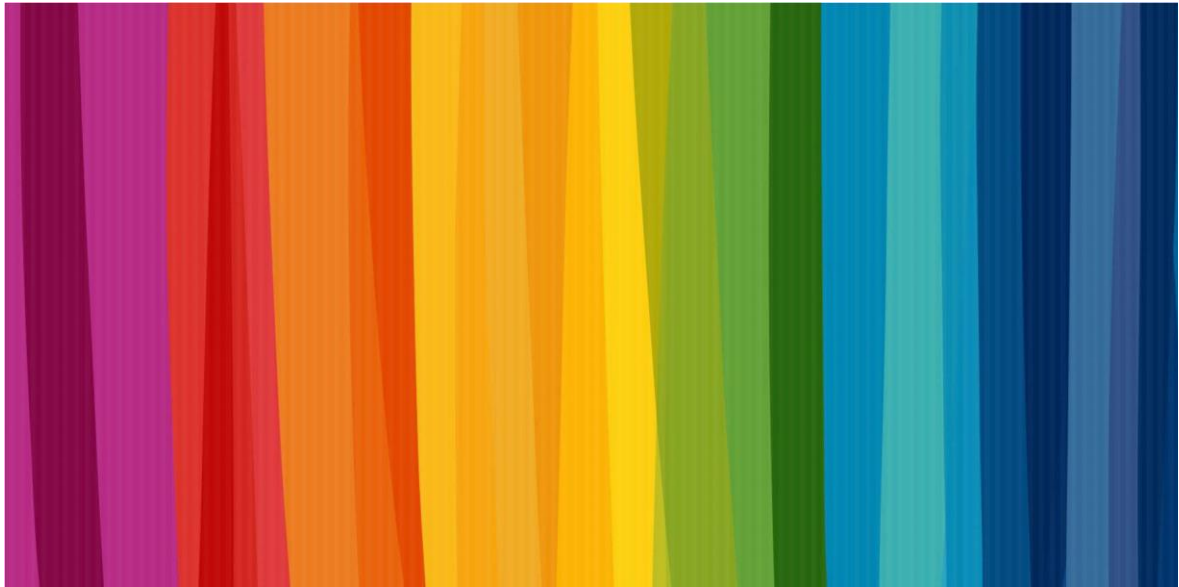


USQ Ally Network Newsletter



usq.edu.au/ally

Issue #47 March 2021



Dear Allies,

Welcome to the first edition of the Ally Network Newsletter for 2021 😊. We hope you have had a peaceful transition into the year, and we look forward to including you in Ally events throughout. We have already had our first Ally Network Natter, which we hope you could attend. And we are pleased to advise that there will be a double Natter special in April – the first one on the 7th (see details below), then an Ally Network exclusive one-hour special edition on the 28th! Watch your emails for the invitation 😊 You may also be interested to hear that our LGBTIQ+ Awareness Training has undergone some renovations, and is now targeted at educating staff and students on how to be supportive and inclusive Allies at USQ. If you would like to participate in this training, even if you are already an Ally, we welcome one and all! Please see our website for upcoming sessions, and don't forget to refer anyone else you know at USQ who may be interested.

Please remember that we are always on the lookout 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.

What's going on at USQ?

USQ Ally Network Natter

USQ Ally Network Natters are intended to be a safe and inclusive space for discussion for members of the LGBTIQ community and their supporters within USQ.

Details of the next Natter are:



Guest Speakers: Margaret Martin and Nathan Anastasi, Lifeline Toowoomba, LGBTIQ Domestic Violence support program

Wednesday 7th April, 12.45pm

We will hear from Margaret Martin and Nathan Anastasi, Domestic and Family Violence Support Practitioners from Lifeline Toowoomba, who will speak about their new LGBTIQ Domestic Violence support program.

To join us via zoom webinar, register [here](#).

We hope you can join us 😊

Mental Health First Aid Training

Accredited to deliver MHFA
Courses by MHEA Australia



**MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID**
www.mhfa.com.au

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

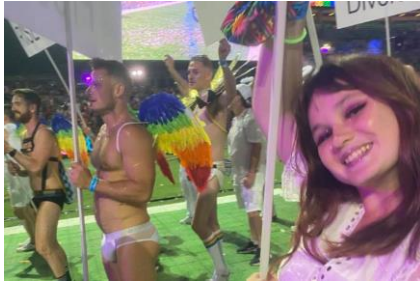
Where and how to refer people to get help

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

What's going on outside of USQ?



Brisbane Peacocks shake tail feathers at Mardi Gras Parade 2021

The Brisbane Peacocks proudly represented Queensland at (6th March) Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade 2021. The Peacocks joined more than 5,000 people who marched in the parade on behalf of over 100 community groups.

This year marked the first time the parade did not take place on Oxford St in the event's 43-year history. Because of the pandemic, organisers moved the event to the Sydney Cricket Ground. [MORE QNews](#)



Homophobic hoons target ABC reporter Mark Reddie, gay friends

On Saturday (6th March), Australia celebrated its LGBTQI communities as Sydney held the annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. But, there was no rest for homophobes. In a shocking incident ABC Sydney crime reporter Mark Reddie and his gay friends were targeted by homophobic hoons just hours after the parade. [More Star Observer](#)



Jamaica is finally being held to account for the violence suffered by LGBTQ+ people

Finally the Jamaican state has been held to account for its complicity in the violence and discrimination I have faced for being gay. An international tribunal has ruled that Jamaica should scrap its homophobic laws immediately. [MORE The Guardian](#)

Entertainment



Rhys Nicholson joins RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under as judge

Australian comedian Rhys Nicholson will be joining the hotly anticipated Stan Original Series RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under in the prestigious third judge's seat. [MORE Star Observer](#)



Jodie Cooper Shows Girls Can Indeed Surf

Girls Can't Surf is out in cinemas nationally March 11. Directed by Christopher Nelius, the film is a documentary about professional surfing in the late 70s through to now. It details how Cooper, and other women in professional surfing, came up against discrimination and challenges, yet collectively helped changed the culture of surfing for ever. [MORE](#) *Star Observer*

Events



Brand new pride festival set to launch on the Sunshine Coast

Singer Jack Vidgen is headlining the inaugural Out 'n' Proud Festival, a new pride event set for Caloundra on Queensland's Sunshine Coast in June. The new festival will take over Caloundra's Kings Beach, 90 minutes north of Brisbane, on June 19, 2021. [MORE](#) *QNews*



Plan your wedding at Brisbane's next Same Same Weddings Expo

Brisbane's fifth Same Same Weddings Expo will be held on Sunday 28th March 2021 at Brisbane Powerhouse from 10am to 2pm. This FREE Expo will take over several levels of Brisbane Powerhouse and showcase the best of South-East Queensland's wedding industry. [MORE](#) *QNews*



Bowled Over the dragumentary, SBS, starring Wanda DParke

Bowled Over the dragumentary, follows three drag queens from Taboo at North Ipswich Bowls Club over the course of a year. A decade ago, the Taboo monthly drag show rescued the bowls club from its financial woes. *Bowled Over* tells the stories of three queens from Taboo, each at a different phase of their career. [MORE](#) *QNews*

Supports

LGBTIQ resources and referrals

Please remember that the USQ Ally Network keeps a list of LGBTIQ resources and referrals available for download on the Ally website. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the downloadable list. This is a useful tool for you when supporting those who identify or who have people close to them who identify.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office.

Kind regards,
USQ Ally Network

E: ally@usq.edu.au

Student Services Division | University of Southern Queensland | Queensland | Australia

