

USQ ALLY

Network Newsletter



Issue #24 April 2018



Already past mid-semester break. How are you all travelling? Hopefully you've had time to engage in some of the activities that have been happening. All campuses had successful Transgender Day of Visibility events on 28th March, which was great to see. We also had an inspiring talk from long-time PFLAG participant and marriage equality activist Shelley Argent for the April Ally Network Natter. More exciting events coming in May. Make sure you check out activities for IDAHOBIT in this issue!

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.

Ally Network Natters

Wednesday 2 May, 12.30 - 1.30pm

I402 USQ Ipswich

Raised by Wolves?

Caitlin will share her experience of being raised by two women and how this had a significant impact on her upbringing and career pathway. There's been a lot of media attention and articles written over the years about same sex parents and their parental abilities. A lot has been predominantly negative, however there is extensive evidence based on actual real experiences that completely contradicts the statement that — children do better when raised by a mother and a father. And Caitlin is living proof of that. The main point of this natter will be to discuss that it is discrimination and bullying, not same-sex parents that harms children.

To register your interest in attending at USQ Ipswich please email ally@usq.edu.au. If you are unable to attend in person you can [register here for the webinar](#).



IDAHOBIT

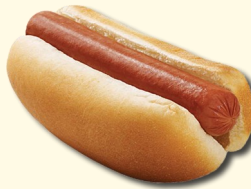


Please join the USQ Ally Network, USQ Pride Club, SRC and the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) in celebrating the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT Day). These celebrations continue USQ's tradition of USQ taking a stand against discrimination, promoting an inclusive community and actively demonstrating our commitment to diversity and inclusion. Staff (and students) can be involved on Wednesday 16 May or Thursday 17 May through the following ways:

Toowoomba

Wednesday 16th May
Sausage Sizzle and Veggie Burgers:
BBQ supported by the NTEU and USQ Accessibility Network
11-2pm Quad

Thursday 17th May
Flag Raising Ceremony
1pm
Flagpoles outside of B Block



Ipswich

Thursday 17th May
Rainbow Cupcake Decorating
Proudly supported by the USQ Pride Club & USQ Ipswich SRC
11am-1pm
Challinor Court

Flag Raising Ceremony
1pm
Outside Building E



Springfield

Wednesday 16th May
Rainbow Cupcake Decorating
Proudly supported by the USQ Pride Club & USQ Springfield SRC
11am-1pm
Outdoor Walkway

Thursday 17th May
Flag Raising Ceremony
1pm
Outside Auditorium



In the News



China's Sina Weibo reverses ban on LGBT content after outcry

Sina Weibo, the Chinese equivalent of Twitter, has reversed a short-lived ban on LGBT-related content following an outcry from the country's internet users. [MORE HERE](#)

Ad Council introduces 'Beyond I Do' campaign to raise awareness about LGBT discrimination

While progress is being made on equal rights for the LGBT community, there is still a long way to go, as a new anti-discrimination campaign, 'Beyond I Do,' demonstrates. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the prevalence of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in the United States, despite the widespread misperception they have basic protections.

[MORE HERE](#)



Watch ad [HERE](#)



New national advocacy and support group for transgender Australians

A new national, peer-led organisation for trans advocacy and support has begun campaigning for transgender equality in Australia. Trans Health Australia, previously known as a Facebook information and news group, will now provide a national forum and campaign for rights of trans and gender diverse communities throughout Australia. [MORE HERE](#)

Shadow Health Minister calls out the Liberal Party over gay 'conversion' therapy

'Two Turnbull Government ministers—the Acting Prime Minister and the Health Minister—have now failed to condemn the practice when given the chance.' Shadow Minister for Health Catherine King has condemned the Liberal Party for attempting to encourage anti-gay and anti-trans 'conversion therapy' in Victoria. [MORE HERE](#)



Sport



69% of out athletes at the Commonwealth Games won medals

Out LGBTQ athletes again outperformed their straight, cisgender counterparts on the world stage. This time it was the Commonwealth Games, where 69% of the 13 out athletes won medals. [MORE HERE](#)

Entertainment

Bisexual teen says her Mum finally accepted her after watching 'Love, Simon'

A teenager has told the touching story of how her mother finally embraced her daughter's bisexuality after the pair watched the gay drama film Love, Simon together.

[MORE HERE](#)



Health



Is PrEP the game-changer that will end new HIV transmissions in Australia?

On Sunday, April 1, Australia joined only a handful of other countries in the world whose governments have made HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) readily available to populations at risk of HIV infection. This step forward takes Australia much closer to achieving its pledge, made in 2014, to end new HIV transmissions by 2020. [MORE HERE](#)

Training

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



Support Services

Bulk-billing LGBTIQ-friendly GP in Toowoomba

headspace Toowoomba has a bulk billing GP who works alongside their LGBTIQ group. She has a lot of experience with **headspace** centres and clients, and particularly with young people who are transgender. There are no wait times for appointments.

Dr Violeta is available Mondays and Wednesdays at **headspace** and bookings can be made on 4639 9000.



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

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](#)

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>



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>



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.](#)

