

USQ ALLY Network Newsletter



Issue #21 January 2018



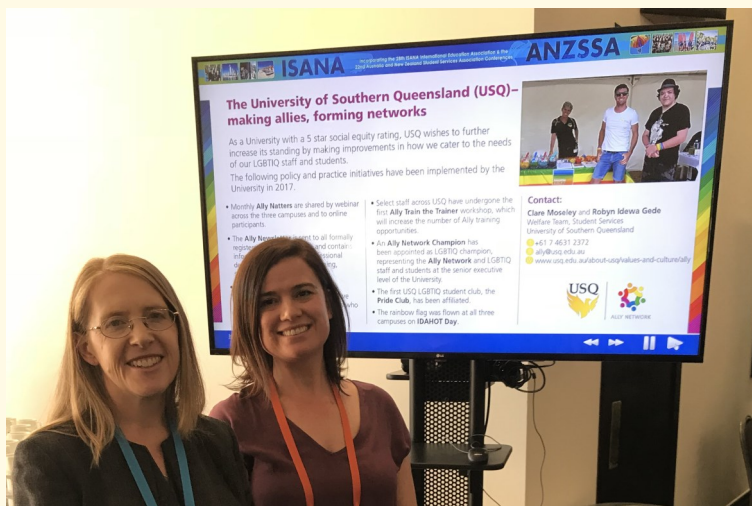
Welcome back everyone! Hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable break and that you are still on track with those new year resolutions. Our first Ally newsletter of 2018 is a compact one to kick things off! As usual, this year we can look forward to increasing our Ally numbers as we will be having Ally training in Semester 1. So, if you know of interested staff and students, please share with them the Ally webpage [link](#) where the details will be announced soon.

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.

ANZSSA ePoster win for USQ

We are pleased to announce that *The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) — making allies, forming networks* won best ePoster at the Australian and New Zealand Student Services Association (ANZSSA) conference in December 2017.

Student Wellness Officers, Robyn Idewa Gede (left) and Clare Moseley (right) worked on putting together the ePoster which outlined the policy and practice initiatives that had been undertaken by the team during 2017. It also featured a new video compiled by HR that promotes the Ally network which can be viewed [here](#).



BE QUICK! Out for Australia Role Model Awards 2018 — nominations close 31st January

Do you have an inspirational queer friend, mentor or role model in your life? Nominate them today for Out for Australia's National Role Model Awards. Whether they are students, young professionals or established professionals, we want to celebrate them and everything they have done for our community. Nominations close **tomorrow January 31st** and the form can be found [here](#)

You can nominate yourself or if you know a queer student leader who you think deserves this recognition, nominate them today! If you want to know more about the awards and Out for Australia, simply email outreach@outforaustralia.org

In the News

The term 'LGBTI' confuses desire, behavior and identity—and it's time we rethink it

The rise of sexually transmissible diseases made front-page news in The Age, which tried to make sense of the rise among "gay men" and "heterosexual people". This illustrates the increasingly common confusion between behaviour and identity. What is involved is sexual contact, or to use the expression common in the early days of the AIDS epidemic, the "exchange of bodily fluids".

Whether people involved have a particular identity, as the words used in the report suggests, is irrelevant. Desire, behaviour and identity are distinct, and they do not always overlap. [MORE](#)



'Who's going to believe me?' - Why it's so hard to talk about domestic abuse in LGBTIQ relationships

Celia Vasquez* was in graduate school when the abuse began.....She thought about seeking help but wondered how she would explain the abuse. "I'm dating a woman and she's half my size, and I'm thinking, who is going to believe me?" she says [MORE HERE](#)



Asexuals struggle to come out in this sexed-up world

Sex sells. Whether you're getting it or not, its hard to avoid it. So imagine what it would be like to live in this sexed-up world and yet never experience sexual attraction. [READ MORE](#)



First openly transgender woman in British Vogue

A model, writer and campaigner has become the first openly transgender woman to be featured in British Vogue. Paris Lees is included in a feature celebrating 100 years since women have had the right to vote in the UK. [READ MORE](#)



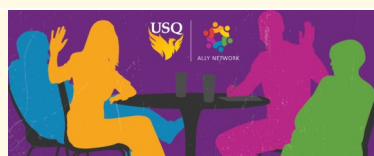
Events and Entertainment

Mardi Gras' worst-kept secret confirmed: Cher set to perform

The NSW Government has confirmed the worst-kept secret surrounding this years' Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, with pop star Cher officially announced to be performing at the event in March. [MORE](#)



Our monthly **Ally Natters** at the Ipswich and Springfield campuses are starting back in March 2018. We will have all the details in the next Ally newsletter. So watch this space!



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.](#)

