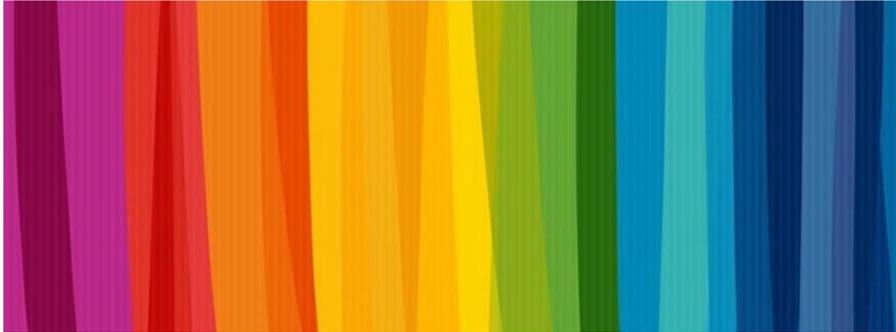


USQ ALLY Network Newsletter



Issue #23 March 2018



Wow, such a busy start to the year already for the USQ Ally Network! We are already onto our third newsletter of 2018 and have had our first, very successful, Ally Natter at the Ipswich campus. We have also already undertaken the first of the Ally training sessions for 2018 so we will be welcoming more Allies to our group 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.

Ally Network Natters

Wednesday 4 April, 12.30 - 1.30pm

B154 USQ Springfield

Guest speaker:

Shelley Argent is the 'world's best volunteer', as she calls herself, and loved being a stay-at-home mother until 1994 when she decided it was time for her to get a university degree that said she knew what she was talking about. During that time, her son James came out as gay, so when she finished her degree in 1997, Shelley became a volunteer for QLD AIDS Council, as well as a member of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

Shelley will talk about how lives of LGBTIQ+ people have changed over the last 20 years, how being LGBTIQ+ is no longer such a concern to family and loved ones, and how society generally has changed due to education and honesty of families about their loved ones. Shelley was also involved in the campaign for same sex marriage and will speak about this journey and the recent culmination with the passing of the bill.

To register your interest in attending at USQ Springfield please email ally@usq.edu.au.

If you are unable to attend in person you can [register here for the webinar](#).



TSER
TRANS STUDENT ORGANISATION

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

MARCH 31ST, 2018

#TRANSTHRIVING

WWW.TRANSSTUDENT.ORG/TDOV

Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)

TDOV is a day to show your support for the trans community. It aims to bring attention to the accomplishments of trans people around the globe while fighting cissexism and transphobia by spreading knowledge of the trans community. The USQ Pride Club will be running BBQs and activities at each of the campuses on **Thursday March 29th** in order to promote [Transgender Day of Visibility](#).

For more details about these events please contact the Pride Club - usqpride@gmail.com

Ally Report



The Honourable Michael Kirby

On Monday 26th March at Toowoomba campus, USQ Allies were privileged to have a private audience with the Honourable Michael Kirby, retired High Court Judge and high profile advocate for the rights of the LGBTIQ community. We were a small but attentive group and enjoyed sitting with The Hon Michael Kirby and hearing him speak with passion and conviction about his views on the importance of appropriate acknowledgement of the LGBTIQ community in universities. It was inspiring to hear him speak and has given us all extra motivation to keep promoting the LGBTIQ profile at USQ.

In the News

What it's like being Muslim and LGBTQ

Australia's LGBTQ community is a vibrant and diverse part of the wider, global fabric of uncompromising gay liberation advocacy, but the media's characterisation of it exists almost entirely through the lens of what is ferociously visible.

Mainstream coverage of LGBTQ events, including this month's Mardi Gras parade, has largely centred on the flashy, white, and middle class, thereby fashioning a marketable caricature of LGBTQ identity that restricts entire communities, and their unique concerns, into the margins.

For queer Australian Muslims this marginalisation is palpable, and their fight for visibility has led to the creation of an organisation that aims to shed light on their concerns. [MORE](#)

'Unjust and unfair' marriage laws to change in Queensland

Queensland laws will be changed so people who change their gender do not have to divorce their partner.

Section 22 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act currently means that any Queenslanders who have undergone sex reassignment surgery has to divorce their partner to have their gender legally recognised. [MORE HERE](#)



The Queensland government will introduce legislation so transgender people do not need to divorce to change their gender.
Photo: Shutterstock

Sport



Winter Olympics 2018: US skier Gus Kenworthy shared a kiss with his boyfriend on TV to the support of viewers

In between displays of incredible sportsmanship and death-defying stunts, NBC's cameras captured one tender moment - a kiss shared between Olympic skier Gus Kenworthy and his boyfriend Matthew Wilkas before the ski slopestyle qualifying.

As one of two openly-gay US Olympians, the significance of the kiss, which was broadcast on primetime network television, was not lost on viewers at home - who praised the display of affection. [MORE HERE](#)

Events and Entertainment



Love, Simon

Everyone deserves a great love story. But for Simon it's complicated: no-one knows he's gay and he doesn't know who the anonymous classmate is that he's fallen for online. Resolving both issues proves hilarious, scary and life-changing.

Want to watch this movie with some fellow Allies?! The following sessions are nominated for each USQ local area for this **Friday 30th March**. Wear your Ally badge to identify yourself to meet up outside the cinema beforehand :)

Ipswich (Cnr Brisbane & Ellenborough Streets): 6.40pm

Springfield (Orion Springfield Central, 1 Main St): 6.40pm

Toowoomba Strand (159-163 Margaret St): 6.45pm

More information [here](#)

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.](#)

