

# USQ ALLY

## Network Newsletter



Issue #36 May 2019



It is the month of IDAHOBIT! We had some wonderful festivities on each of our campuses (see below for photos). We hope you made it there to join in some cupcake decorating and sign our pledge against homophobia. We also had a visit from the Honourable Michael Kirby at the Toowoomba campus, where Allies enjoyed a lunch and chat with this prominent advocate of LGBTIQ+ rights.

If you have any ideas you would like to put forward to the network, such as topics or speakers for the Natters, or interesting articles, professional development or networking opportunities, please forward to us by emailing: [Ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:Ally@usq.edu.au)

### IDAHOBIT

The rainbow flag flew proudly over our campuses in celebration of IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia). Much rainbow cake was consumed! Well done everybody on a successful event. We hope you were able to check in with us at one of the locations.

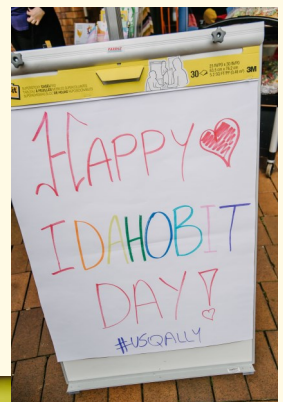
**Springfield cupcake appreciation**



**Ipswich library window display and rainbow flag**



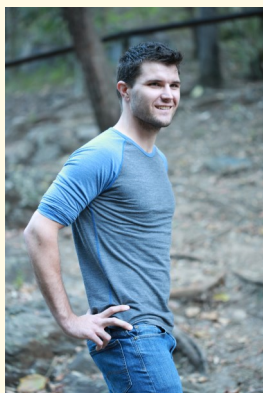
**Toowoomba celebrations and rainbow cupcakes**



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>

## USQ Ally Network Natter



Wednesday 5th June, 12.30-1.30pm

B154 Springfield

'Where to from the intolerant environment?' – *Joshua Nixon*

Growing up in an intolerant environment, where family and friends were openly hostile towards queer people, Josh will discuss how this shaped his early life and self-identification and expression. He will also talk about the importance of having a support system for oneself after leaving a toxic environment, and the difficulties he experienced and how he overcame them.

Josh Nixon is a USQ Student who has been an active part of the USQ Ally Network and was the founding president of USQ Pride. He has long been a vocal advocate for the advancement of queer policy, and is never shy about using any platform to discuss the topics of equality and social injustice regarding the queer community. Josh proudly and openly identifies as a gay man, and describes his uni-downtime as busy: teaching karate, frequently acting on stage and screen, working full-time in a bar, and working part-time as a masseur and a business consultant.

To register your interest in attending at USQ Ipswich 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](#).

## In the News

### LGBTI-inclusive sex education benefits straight students: study

New research has shown that LGBTI-inclusive sex education leads to benefits for all students, including young straight people. It found that inclusive education led to a reduction in bullying, and better mental health results for LGBTIQ young people, including reduced depressive symptoms and reduced suicidality. [MORE](#)



### Taiwan passes same-sex marriage legislation in historic first for Asia

Taiwan's parliament has passed same-sex marriage legislation in a historic first for Asia. The country's government passed legislation (...) allowing same-sex couples legal marriage rights, including in areas such as taxes, insurance and adoption.

[MORE](#)

### 'One million mums' want Arthur cancelled for featuring a gay wedding

"Just because an issue may be legal or because some are choosing a lifestyle doesn't make it morally correct," the 'mums' said. An anti-LGBTIQ+ group has criticised US broadcaster PBS after it aired an episode of *Arthur* that featured a gay wedding. [MORE](#)



## In the Community



### One Step Better

'One step better' reconnects with three officers from the 2017 'it gets better' video and follows their journey as LGBTIQ+ officers in the Queensland Police Service. [WATCH](#)

## Sport



### Caster Semenya told to compete in male athletics

Sporting officials have invited South African athlete Caster Semenya to compete in male events, after she was blocked from continuing to participate in women's races. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) ... decreed that Semenya must take medication to lower her natural levels of testosterone before being allowed to compete as a woman. [MORE](#)

### Israel Folau sacked by Rugby Australia over anti-gay Instagram post

Israel Folau's \$4 million contract has been terminated by Rugby Australia over his Instagram post declaring "hell awaits" gay people. The Wallabies star was stood down by Rugby Australia in April, after he posted an image on Instagram that read "drunks, homosexuals, adulterers, liars, fornicators, thieves, atheists idolaters" were going to hell unless they repent. [MORE](#)



## 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)



## Resources

### 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>

## 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](#)



## 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/>

**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.](#)



## 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/>

