

# USQ Ally Network Newsletter



[usq.edu.au/ally](https://usq.edu.au/ally)

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Dear Allies,

Wow, can you believe it is September already? Before you know it Christmas will be upon us and we will be welcoming in a new year – hopefully better than this one!! But in the meantime let's reflect on what has been happening within the Ally space over the last few months. Well, there has been 'Wear it Purple Day' where staff and students were encouraged to wear purple in order to show support to young people in the LGBTIQ community. We also kicked off Pride month (September) with a discussion panel event which discussed the importance of allies and which is featured in the newsletter below.

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](mailto:Ally@usq.edu.au) to share your points of interest.

## What's going on at USQ?

### LGBTIQ+ Awareness Training



Know anyone who wants to become an Ally? Tell them about our upcoming online training webinar

**When:** [28<sup>th</sup> October 2020](#) 10am- 12:30pm.

## 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.



**Guest Speaker: Mark Thomas, USQ Student**

**Tuesday 6 October, 12.45pm**

Come join us for the next Ally Network Natter. We will hear from Mark Thomas, USQ student, currently studying a Bachelor of Human Services, who works part-time as a self-employed Disability Support Work, and volunteers with various organisations including Sunrise Way, Diverse Voices and PFLAG. He will share his story with the hope that he can encourage those who are going through hard times to find support and to inspire people to reach their own full potential. Join us via live zoom webinar.

Register [here](#). This is the last Natter of the year (!), so we do hope you can join us.

## September Pride month

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September we enjoyed a panel discussion as part of September Pride Month activities: 'The Importance of Allies & Friends to the LGBTIQA+ Community'. It was run as a panel discussion, with Shelley Argent, National Spokesperson, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians) as our guest speaker, with additional guest speakers Josh Pienaar, PVC (Students), Josh Nixon, USQ Student and Founder USQ Pride, and Krystle Scott, USQ Student and President USQ Pride. The event was moderated by Michael Thomas, DVC Enterprise Services.

We enjoyed a lively discussion, with questions coming in from our online audience. We heard about the challenges of having an appropriately supportive and inclusive LGBTIQ space and Ally network within organisations, and the importance of the voice of Allies to further the cause of LGBTIQ communities. If you would like to access the recording of this event, it is available to all registered USQ Allies via the [Ally StudyDesk](#).



***Josh Pienaar joining us virtually, flanked by Allies Glen Gorton (AV support) and Ken Gideon (organiser of the event)***



***Clockwise from back left – Shelley Argent, Michael Thomas, Krystle Scott, Josh Nixon, social distancing***

***Shelley Argent and Michael Thomas doing the COVID handshake***



## ***What's going on outside of USQ?***



### **Court approves trans teen's treatment after parental dispute**

A 16-year-old transgender girl whose mother opposed her transition can access gender-affirming hormone treatment after a win in the Family Court of Australia.

The girl's father had consented to the treatment, but her mother refused, the *Sydney Morning Herald* [reported](#).



### **QC offers new sexual health clinics in Brisbane and Harvey Bay**

The Queensland Council for LGBTI Health (QC) has begun new weekend sexual health clinics as Queenslanders are urged to keep up their health checks during COVID-19.

QC holds its Clinic 30 Testing Point in Brisbane every second Tuesday, and that service has now resumed and is taking bookings. [MORE](#)

## Entertainment



### Sarah Paulson and Cynthia Nixon play 1940s lesbians in Netflix's *Ratched*

Sarah Paulson gives new life to an iconic screen character who navigates a 1940s lesbian affair in Netflix series *Ratched*.

The Ryan Murphy series, which has drawn comparison with his *American Horror Story*, tells the origin story of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* nurse Mildred Ratched.

Mildred was the cruel and scheming antagonist from the 1962 novel and its classic 1975 film adaptation.

[MORE](#)

## 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**

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