

# USQ Ally Network Newsletter



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

Issue #52 April 2022



Dear Allies,

We have had a great start to the year with two Ally Training sessions, an Ally Network Natter, and an amazing 'It's ok to be me...' exhibition by Shannon Novak for QAGOMA's Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art. Now we are approaching May when we will be celebrating International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) with the rainbow flag flying at each campus, and another Natter. May 28th is also LGBTIQ+ Domestic Violence Awareness Day. Read further to see articles on all of these happenings.

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?



Photo credit Associate Professor Amy Mullens

### 'It's ok to be me' Exhibition

Associate Professor Amy Mullens

The recent "It's ok to be me..." exhibition which showcased at the new art space at Toowoomba campus is part of the larger USQ Make Visible partnership with international artist Shannon Novak. This extraordinary collection of works, under the astute guidance of the Curatorial Team (Brodie Taylor, Gwen Walker and Chris Mills-Kelly), is meaningfully and effectively raising awareness regarding the strengths and challenges experienced by members of rainbow communities through art as a powerful yet accessible medium—sparking various other rippling projects to sustain the project's mission and grow momentum and reach across community, industry and academic settings; through various learning and teaching, research and service initiatives. This model provides a useful template for bridging art with science to work towards enduring positive changes within society. This model can be readily adapted to other contexts and priority groups to enable and promote advocacy, awareness-raising and much needed social change. The project is led by Associate Professor Amy Mullens, Associate Professor Beata Batorowicz, Mr Brodie Taylor and Dr Annette Bromdal; with support from the USQ Ally Network, Queensland Council for LGBTI Health and Lifeline Darling Downs and South West Queensland. Additional images and information regarding this exhibition can be found at: [www.shannonnovak.com/#/its-ok-to-be-me/](http://www.shannonnovak.com/#/its-ok-to-be-me/)

## IDAHOBIT



31 years ago - on May 17, 1990 - the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. International Day Against

Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) celebrates LGBTQIA+ people globally, and raises awareness for the work still needed to combat discrimination. [MORE](#)

The USQ Ally Network invites you to join us for the official rainbow raising ceremony at each campus on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10am. Please arrive a little earlier than 10am so as not to miss the action and to be part of a photo if you so wish.

## Ally Network Natter

USQ Ally Network Natters are intended to be a safe and inclusive space for discussion and relaxation for members of the LGBTIQ community and their supporters within USQ. Details of the next Natter:



### Guest Speaker: Dr Leigh Dale

Wednesday 18th May 12pm-1pm

Dr Leigh Dale (left) has lived near Ipswich for the last seven years, having first moved to the area in 2001. She has a long-time academic and personal interest in gender, sexuality and difference, especially as they are part of working and studying in universities, and living in rural communities.

She describes her talk this way:

*When reading a recent Australian book, I came across something that set me back on my heels. The subject of the biography, a member of the LGBTIQ+ community, declared her hatred of the word 'queer'. This set me thinking: what are gender and gender difference? Do they lie in bodies or minds? In how we see ourselves or how others see us? Are they given at birth, or do they grow and change? And what happens when different beliefs about gender and sexuality - that they are given by God or are expressions of our true self or are given by nature or are shaped by culture – collide, especially among those who are thought to be part of the 'same' community?*

Join us online at 12pm. [Register](#)

## Become an Ally

While our sessions for the year are filling up fast, there are still openings later in the year, and you can also go on a waiting list. For session details and to register: [Access \(usq.edu.au\)](https://usq.edu.au)

## LGBTIQ+ Graduating Students



The USQ Ally Network would like to acknowledge the achievements of our graduating LGBTIQ+ students by offering a Lavender pin as a memento.

The Lavender Pin originated as a tradition in North America, where Lavender Graduation Ceremonies are celebrated across many universities. The colour lavender has a significance in LGBTIQ+ history and is today used as a symbol of pride.

To claim a pin, please email: [Ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:Ally@usq.edu.au) from your uemail account with the following details:

- Your name and student ID
- The congratulations email from the VC regarding your graduation (a screen shot or you can forward the email)
- If you would like to collect the pin from the Student Success and Wellbeing office, and which campus: Toowoomba, Ipswich, or Springfield
- If you cannot collect, a mailing address we can send your pin to. This will be in a USQ envelope but not identified on the outside as from the Ally Network.

## 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](#)



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



### PFLAG launches new coming out video and resources for all Qld schools

A Sydney council will make Coogee Beach's giant rainbow walkway permanent but some councillors want community consultation because the installation "is a political statement". [MORE](#) *QNews*



### Anthony Albanese asked by LGBT advocates to come clean on religious discrimination bill

Labor had called the Morrison's bill to protect people of faith "flawed" and had said that an Albanese government would introduce one that is better. [MORE](#) *Star Observer*



### Conversion therapy ban: Over 100 groups quit government LGBT conference

More than 100 organisations have pulled out of the UK's first ever global LGBT+ conference over the government's stance on conversion therapy.

[MORE](#) *BBC News*



## NSW Liberal candidate described campaign supporting LGBT youth as 'grooming tactic' used by 'gender extremists'

On a now-deleted website, Katherine Deves criticised NSW police for endorsing Wear it Purple Day and makes a series of inflammatory posts about trans people. [MORE](#) *The Guardian*

## Entertainment



## Doctor Who fans cheer as Doctor confesses love for her companion

Doctor Who has delighted fans by finally confirming a queer romance between the Doctor and her companion Yaz in new special Legend of the Sea Devils. [MORE](#) *QNews*

## Events



## Queering Kyogle at the 2022 Kyogle Writers Festival

The northern NSW town of Kyogle will play host to the 2022 Kyogle Writers Festival this May with some fabulous queer authors. [MORE](#) *QNews*

## Sport



## Marcelo Montoya banned for four games following homophobic slur

Warriors player Marcelo Montoya has been banned from four games after yelling a homophobic slur at Cowboys player Kyle Feldt, during a National Rugby League (NRL) game on April 8. [MORE](#) *Star Observer*

## Important Dates



For support if feeling affected around this day:  
USQ Students can access [free confidential counselling](#)  
USQ Staff can access [EAP](#)  
LGBTIQ+ specialised support at <https://qlife.org.au/>  
For anyone experiencing violence in their family or relationship **1800 Respect 1800 737 732**

### LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Day

The day was inaugurated in Brisbane in 2020 by the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation. This year the day will be observed nationally by LGTBIOA+ communities, organisations and their friends, families, and allies. The theme for this year's event is #SeenAndBelieved, all those experiencing or who have survived family violence must be heard and responded to. [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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