



Edition #7 – February 2011

Welcome to the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities Newsletter

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Please enjoy QAHC News.

What's in this edition:

- ***LGBT Health News***
 - ◆ *Survey of HIV Treatments*
 - ◆ *Private Lives 2 Survey*
 - ◆ *Women's Global Sex Study*
 - ◆ *HIV Stigma Survey*
 - ◆ *A round-up of recent media reports on Same Sex Marriage*
 - ◆ *A message from Hepatitis Council of Qld*
 - ◆ *Respect Inc – Sex Worker Support*
 - ◆ *PFLAG Cairns*
 - ◆ *DocList – Doctors recommended for lesbians & bisexual women'*
 - ◆ *LBG Research Project – Macquarie University*
 - ◆ *LGBT Counselling & Information Services available at QAHC*

- ***QAHC Projects***
 - ***Sexual Health***
 - ◆ *Approaches to condom free sex*
 - ◆ *Men in the Middle Workshop*

 - ***2 Spirits***
 - ◆ *2 Spirits Review Update*
 - ◆ *2 Spirits Position Vacant at QAHC*

 - ***Capacity Development***

- ◆ *TAFF 2011 Short Film Competition*
- ◆ *News from North Queensland*
- **Community Activities**
 - ◆ *Brisbane Queer Film Festival*
 - ◆ *Brisbane North Social Group*
 - ◆ *Mardi Gras Parade – Gold Coast Entry*
 - ◆ *Camp Club 40th Anniversary*
 - ◆ *Out West*
 - ◆ *Rainbow Allsorts*
 - ◆ *Movie Night*
- **Professional Events**
 - ◆ *Training Opportunities*
- **Fundraising and Volunteering Opportunities**
 - ◆ *Vagina Monologues fundraising performance*
 - ◆ *Big Gay Day – 13 March*
 - ◆ *Gold Coast Experience Raffle*
 - ◆ *QAHC Flood Appeal*
 - ◆ *Lesbian Calendar – Get yours now!*
- **Links to Community Resources**
- **QAHC Contact Details**

LGBT Health News

Participants needed for a survey of HIV treatments

The Living with HIV program at ARCSHS has a project investigating the experiences of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in commencing and changing antiretroviral treatments called Tracking Changes.

The Tracking Changes survey has been ticking along nicely; however, they are still hoping to get a few more respondents to complete the survey which takes around 15 minutes to complete.

The online survey is a key component of the project and open to all PLHIV living in Australia who are 18 years of age or older

The survey is completely anonymous and will establish knowledge, beliefs and understandings about ARV to: treatment modalities, efficacy, treatment commencement and change algorithms, decision making around commencement and treatment switching.

The project will result in a publicly-available report, which we hope will be of benefit to the HIV/AIDS sector.

If you are a PLHIV or know someone willing to do this survey it can be found at www.trackingchanges.net

If you would like more information about this project please contact Dr Jeffrey Grierson on 1800 064 398 or hivfutures@latrobe.edu.au

Second national survey of the health and wellbeing of GLBT Australians announced.

Private Lives 2 is an on-line survey of the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Australians. Carried out by Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria in partnership with the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University Private Lives 2 aims to be the largest and most comprehensive assessment of the health of Australian GLBT communities to date.

The first Private Lives survey was conducted in 2005 and involved over 5,000 participants. The results of the survey have had a major impact on improvements in health and community services for GLBT people across the country.

Private Lives 2 will revisit many of the questions used in the original survey to see if and how things have changed for GLBT people. It will include questions on physical and mental health and wellbeing, use of health services, alcohol and drug use, the impact of legislative reforms, including recognition of same sex relationships, GLBTI people's experiences of discrimination and their connections to family, friends and community. The survey will have a greater emphasis on GLBT mental health and depression and will include questions looking at the impact of social connection, including the use of the Internet, on GLBT people's wellbeing.

Participating in Private Lives 2 is as simple as accepting an invitation:

Be part of an online survey on the health and wellbeing of the GLBT community in Australia. If you are over 16 years of age and identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, go to www.privatelivessurvey.org.au.

Like its predecessor, the success of Private Lives 2 depends on GLBT people completing the survey. It takes just 20 mins to complete, but that 20 mins is vital for the ongoing improvement in the quality of services provided to GLBT people across Australia.

Contact Sunil Patel 03 9285 5278 sunil.patel@latrobe.edu.au



Women's Global Sex Study

Welcome to the study website for the Women's Global Sex Study. In collaboration with GaydarGirls, researchers at the Center for Sexual Health Promotion at Indiana University are conducting a study on the sexual beliefs and behaviours of women who have experienced or currently experience sexual

attraction, desire, affection, intentions towards or sexual behavior with other women.

The data will be used to help us understand the sex lives of women in the bedroom (and beyond) in order to promote better and safer sex between women! Current knowledge of sexual pleasure and risk between women is largely based on either heterosexual models of sex or relatively small groups of women which may not represent the thoughts/feelings/behaviors of you or your community. This is why we need you to help us reach our goal of collecting the largest, most diverse data on the sexual lives between women in contemporary history! The information will be used by sexual educators who want to promote pleasure and medical professionals who can help women identify ways to protect themselves from any risks--- leading to safer and happier sex.

This is your chance to help researchers, sexual educators, medical personnel and policy makers understand the needs and desires of your community! In addition to helping your community. To access the survey please follow the link www.indiana.edu/~whs/

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

HIV Stigma Survey

The stigma of HIV is something we can live without and with your help we can make a start. The HIV Stigma Audit is a new research project from NAPWA and the National Centre in HIV Social Research at the University of New South Wales. The audit is being conducted by a web-based survey.

We would like to hear from all sorts of people with HIV about their experiences. If you are HIV positive and living in Australia you are welcome to complete the survey.

The survey only takes about 20 mins to complete, and is open to all HIV-positive people over the age of 18 living in Australia. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand HIV stigma and start to do something about ending it.

If you are HIV-positive, over 18 and living in Australia, please consider participating in this valuable research. For more information about the Stigma Audit, please visit www.hivstigma.net.au.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

A round-up of recent media reports on same-sex marriage:

- The Catholic Church has instructed parishioners to lobby federal MP's to vote against gay marriage.

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/catholics-told-to-lobby-against-gay-marriage/story-fn59niix-1225973584062

- A Gympie Parish has used the traditional children's mass on Christmas Eve, and the following Christmas Day masses around the region, to instruct parishioners on the importance of signing a petition to "protect the unique institution of marriage as traditionally understood...between a man and a woman".

www.gympietimes.com.au/story/2010/12/30/gympie-church-fuels-global-gay-debate-homosexual/

- LGBT activists have requested a meeting with Cardinal George Pell the head of the Catholic Church in Australia to discuss why parishioners are being instructed to oppose same-sex marriage.

www.dailytelegraph.com.au/gay-lobbyists-demand-meeting-with-church/story-fn6e0s1g-

1225977392904

- Six federal MP's are now surveying their constituents regarding same-sex marriage, including two MP's in Brisbane. The electorates are Moreton (Brisbane – Southside), Brisbane (Brisbane inner-North), Batman (Melbourne), Sydney, New England, and Tweed Heads.

For full details and to complete the MP surveys see:

www.australianmarriageequality.com/wp/?page_id=1339

- MP's are conducting these surveys in response to a motion passed in Parliament urging MP's to consult with their constituents on gay marriage. So far only 6 out of 150 federal MP's are consulting their constituents.

If your MP is not consulting their constituents, then consider letting them know your thoughts. Find your local federal MP here <http://apps.aec.gov.au/eseach/>

- The Brisbane chapter of Equal Love now has two ways for Brisbane people to be kept informed of how they can be involved in the push for marriage equality at a local level. In addition to the "Equal Love Brisbane" group on Facebook, there is now a Google Groups listing also.

Go to the Google group by clicking here

<http://groups.google.com/group/equallovebrisbane?hl=en>

- The lobby group Australian Marriage Equality has a new tool that makes it easy to send your views supporting marriage equality to all 150 Federal MP's and 26 Senators. Type up a single e-mail and send it to alex@australianmarriageequality.com. Alex will then send it to all 176 MP's. Your e-mail will be addressed to each MP and will appear as if you have e-mailed them individually. MP's are being flooded with letters saying not to allow same-sex marriage. If you believe in equality then let our MP's know. Its best if you can personalise your story and speak from your own experience as an LGBT person or a friend/relative of an LGBT person.
- The first 2011 Brisbane marriage equality rally and march will be on Saturday 19 March at 1pm in Queens Park (behind the casino).



[Top](#)

[Next](#)

A Message from Hepatitis Council of Queensland – Queensland Floods

With the Queensland flood crisis moving into clean-up mode, the Hepatitis Council of Queensland is warning residents to be careful of a potential hidden danger concealed in the mud – hepatitis A.

Health Promotion Officer for the Hepatitis Council of Queensland, Ms Emma Dalglish, said that the Hepatitis A virus can be found in flood water or mud that has been contaminated with raw sewerage.

Hepatitis A is a short-term infection of the liver from which people generally recover. However, adults occasionally develop serious and disabling symptoms lasting several months. The symptoms of hepatitis A include nausea, fever, stomach pain, dark urine, pale faeces and yellowing of the skin and eyes.

“Hepatitis A is spread when anything contaminated with faeces containing hepatitis A comes into contact with the mouth,” Ms. Dalglish said. “Consequently, people need to be extra careful when cleaning houses and yards that have been flood-damaged.”

“The best way to avoid hepatitis A when cleaning up after a flood is through washing your hands before doing other things – such as handling food, maintaining good hygiene, wearing gloves, and not putting your hands near your mouth during this huge clean-up,” she said

“Vaccination against hepatitis A is also available,” Ms. Dalglish said. “People wishing to be vaccinated should talk to their GP or local immunisation clinic.”

For further information on hepatitis A, contact the Hepatitis Council of Queensland on 1800 648 491.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Respect Inc – Sex Worker Support

Respect is a new Queensland Health funded sex worker organisation which aims to reduce stigmas surrounding sex work, to improve the rights of peers and respond to workplace health and safety issues as well as other needs.

Recently the Gay Men's Sexual Health Team met with Joe, a volunteer Peer Educator, who provides information & support for bilingual and male sex workers in QLD. Joe has started a BBQ Lunch for male sex workers to socialise & connect with each other & learn a little more around the services Respect provides.

Respect encourages active involvement of sex workers in projects & actions to create broader community awareness & support of the issues that sex workers face thereby improving the lives of sex workers.

For more info around Respect or to contact Joe or other staff phone 07 3835 1111 or 0451 149 782. www.respectqld.org.au

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

PFLAG Cairns

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (Pflag) held its first meeting in Cairns in December. Co-ordinator Di Clarke welcomed fourteen people to the group including QAHC Northern Region board member, Joanne Leamy, youth worker John Turnock from Youthlink, a number of interested parents plus members of the LGBT community.

The main issues discussed at the meeting were how to promote the program throughout both the gay and general community and access to funding to pay for future advertising. As some of the parents had been waiting for many years to connect with others in similar situations through an organisation like Pflag it became obvious that a Pflag group could be of assistance to many in the local area.

There are now a number of parents willing to speak with others having difficulty coming to terms with their loved one's sexuality be it gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, either anonymously by phone or face to face.

John Turnock is in touch with other youth workers who are interested in resources and information about the new Cairns service. It was agreed to hold monthly meetings at the QAHC office 290 Draper Street, open to both parents, friends and the gay community in general. Initially meetings will be advertised in the media on free community notice boards.

Pflag is an international peer support group for families coming to terms with loved ones with sexual diversity.

For further information about Pflag see www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Di Clarke can be contacted on brodi3@bigpond.com or by phone on 0405251587. Or call QAHC on 40415451.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Let's put a stop to 'corrective rape'

'Corrective rape', the vicious practice of raping lesbians to 'cure' their sexuality, is a crisis in South

Africa.

Let's call on President Zuma and the Minister of Justice to publicly condemn 'corrective rape', criminalise hate crimes, and lead a critical shift against rape and homophobia. Sign the petition now and share it with everyone. http://www.avaaz.org/en/stop_corrective_rape/?rc=fb

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

New resource - doctors recommended by lesbian and bisexual women

DocLIST is an online list of doctors recommended by lesbian and bisexual women, administered by Alliance member the Australian Lesbian Medical Association. The project was piloted in Victoria in 2010 and is now being rolled out nationally.

There are currently over 30 doctors on the list, including GPs and specialists, metropolitan and rural doctors. DocLIST is a free service to lesbian and bisexual women within the community. The main reasons women look at the DocLIST are to find a lesbian/bi-friendly doctor, and to recommend their doctor for the list.

Recommended doctors are contacted by ALMA (without disclosing who recommended them) to see if they agree to go on the list.

For more information: www.doclist.com.au

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

LGB Research Project - Get Involved!

Understanding the Diverse Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Same-Sex Attracted Persons

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or otherwise Same-Sex Attracted (LGB/SSA) persons face many unique life challenges and we think it is important to understand these. Many LGB/SSA persons also come from religious backgrounds and we want to explore more deeply the connections between religion and sexuality. Therefore, you are invited to participate in a study which explores the experiences of both religious and non-religious LGB/SSA persons.

The study is being conducted by Babucarr Sowe (babucarr.sowe@students.mq.edu.au), a PhD candidate at Macquarie University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a PhD in Psychology. This study is being conducted under the supervision of Dr Jac Brown (02-9850 8094), Senior Lecturer, Macquarie University.

Your experiences are important to us! Our research seeks to understand the journeys and challenges for both religious and non-religious LGB/Same-Sex Attracted adults in Australia. Participate in an anonymous and confidential online survey requiring no more than 30 MIN of your time. To say thanks, you will be entered into a Prize Draw for your chance to win 1 OF 4 double movie passes. Get started by going to the url below to find out more and share your experiences...

Click on the link to access the survey:

macquariehs.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_87ByrPwbhu43txG&source=all

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

LGBT Counselling and Information Services now available at QAHC

QAHC collaborates with businesses and agencies to provide a number of counselling and information

services for LGBT individuals. Please ensure you call the number listed for the service to make appointments as you are unable to make appointments through QAHC.

Special rates apply as well as concession rates for people with a health card. Appointments are negotiable outside of the indicated times. Clients are provided with the choice of having their appointment at a QAHC office or from the location of the service provider.

QuiHN - LGBT Drug, Alcohol and/or associated Mental Health Counselling: Counselling and support for people with drug, alcohol and/or associated Mental Health problems.

Brisbane – Wednesdays 1pm – 5pm
To book call 07 3620 8111.

Relationships Australia – Rainbow LGBT – Relationship Counselling Service – Support for individuals and couples with their relationships.

Brisbane – Thursdays, 8.30am – 4pm
Sunshine Coast – by appointment
Cairns – by appointment
To book call 1300 364 277

Focus Hypnotherapy – Working towards the development of personal growth.

Brisbane - Mondays, 12.30pm – 4.30pm
To book call 07 3168 1779

Resolve Matters – Provides support to members of the LGBTI community wanting to resolve life's issues. In counselling Sam assists clients to explore issues relating to sexuality, relationships, children, parenting and relationship breakdowns. Through meditation, Sam can assist clients to develop agreements regarding donors, parenting, cohabitation and property division.

Brisbane - Tuesdays, 10.00am – 2.00pm
To book call 0438 361 135

LGBTI Legal Service Inc – Free legal advice and information

Brisbane – Wednesday evenings – 30 Helen Street, Teneriffe – 6pm – 7.30pm, drop in service
Statewide – Phone advice for regional clients
All enquiries call 0401 936 232

John Bal Counselling – Sexuality Counselling (John Bal Counselling Cairns; Emotional Balance Brisbane) - Emotional Balance and John Bal Counselling provide a friendly confidential and non-judgemental service for people with questions or issues arising out of their sexuality.

Brisbane – Tuesdays
To book call 07 3805 6993

Cairns – Thursdays, negotiable times
To book 0409 426 585

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

QAHC Projects

Sexual Health

Approaches to condom free sex

Most gay men know that safe sex using condoms and water based lube is the best way to avoid getting or passing on HIV during anal sex but some men have found other ways to reduce the risk of HIV

exposure. Individual risk reduction strategies that reduce but don't eliminate HIV such as strategic positioning when a man who knows his HIV status chooses a role that reduces the exchange of [infected] body fluid; or sero-sorting rely on knowing your partner's status or trusting them so the right decisions are made.

Better risk reduction methods would be where you have all the control. These include HIV vaccines and PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis). Unfortunately we don't have vaccines yet and PEP depends on the time after exposure you take it, to be effective. Recently attention has turned to PrEP (Pre Exposure Prophylaxis) as another risk reduction strategy. Trials have been going on to try and confirm it works for HIV as it does with diseases like malaria. Late last year one trial called iPrEX announced some of their results.

iPrEX had 2,500 participants from six countries who participated in a randomised controlled trial of an HIV medication called Truvada. All participants were also provided with condoms, STI testing and treatment, hepatitis vaccinations and they received counselling throughout the trial.

The iPrEX trial results found that Truvada was safe and well-tolerated with some minor side effects and no drug resistance. During the trial 100 people became infected with HIV - 36 on Truvada and 64 in the placebo group. This makes PrEP at least 50% effective. The general finding was that the higher the detectable levels of Truvada in the blood the more effective it was in preventing HIV. Of the 34 men taking Truvada who seroconverted, only 3 (9%) actually had detectable levels of the drug so its efficacy, if used correctly, could be very high.

This is the first human study to show that PrEP is effective in reducing sexual transmission of HIV but the results show that even under the close supervision of the trial it will be difficult to achieve the adherence levels required to ensure high enough efficacy for gay men to do away with condoms. So at best, PrEP with Truvada may complement safe sex and other risk reduction strategies, rather than replacing them.

Nonetheless, these initial results do suggest that PrEP for some people at high-risk of HIV infection, such as sero-discordant (pos/neg) couples who have trouble with safe sex, could be a good option in future but it is a costly option and we may not get it subsidised in Australia. So before anyone rushes out and self-prescribes PrEP please remember you need to ensure that you are HIV negative and you will need to monitor for side-effects of Truvada (and regular testing for HIV and other STIs is still required).

In the mean time safe sex supplies are readily available from QAHC and all gay men should spread the word that PEP is highly effective if taken within 72 hours so we don't have to wait for PrEP, we can all act now to reduce HIV risk.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Men In the Middle – Next workshop in March

New to the Gay Community? Moved interstate, or just want to socialise with people outside of the club scene?

Men In the Middle is a free 6 week workshop, one night a week for guys 26 to 45 who are gay, bisexual or think they might be. It gives you the chance to talk, listen & learn about a range of topics with a variety of other guys.

Each session covers a range of topics including coming out, sexuality, self esteem, the gay community & scene, safe sex, meeting guys, relationships etc. While there is a structure to the program, it's also flexible, with plenty of room to raise topics you want to talk about in a safe & confidential manner.

Over the last 6yrs Men In the Middle has provided a unique opportunity for many guys to take stock & connect with a variety of other men from all walks of life in a fun, hassle free environment.

The next Men in the Middle workshop commences in March, with a limited number of places available.

Feel free to contact QAHC on 3017 1777 or e: mim@qahc.org.au if you have any questions.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Two Spirits

2 Spirits Review Update

The 2 Spirits Review has been progressing well with both Consultants having met with key community members throughout the end of 2010. In the new year, the consultants analysed the meetings, and developed key points of discussion which were taken to a Community Consultation held on February 5th, 2011. During the consultation, key items springing from the Review were discussed including:

- Inclusion of Indigenous services within QAHC.
- How to best strengthen the 2 Spirits Project.
- Strengthening collaboration between 2 Spirits and external organisations.
- Purpose of the Review, and projected outcomes.

From the Consultation, the consultants will prepare a report summarising the outcomes of the Review, which will guide the 2 Spirits Project, not only through the next few months, but beyond.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

2 Spirits Position Vacant at QAHC

The 2 Spirits Program is a program of QAHC specifically working to promote the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men and sisters.

Health Promotion Officer (2 Spirits Program)

Part Time (19hrs/week) – based in Brisbane

\$49,016 to \$65,669 pro rata. (Equivalent to \$56,500 to \$74,000 with Salary Packaging)

You will:

- Conduct information sessions and peer education workshops/retreats for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men, sisters and People Living With HIV,
- Provide advocacy and referral for target populations within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,
- Conduct HIV, Sexual Health and Hepatitis C education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and groups in South Eastern Queensland.
- Conduct training for service providers including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers on issues relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men, sisters and men who have sex with men, HIV, Hepatitis C and sexual health.
- Co-ordinate and implement local and national education campaigns, including development, promotion and distribution of campaigns culturally appropriate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men and sisters.

Info...

QAHC adheres to EEO principles and all applications will be assessed on merit. QAHC values the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with HIV in the workplace. Members of these communities are encouraged to apply.

Reasonable travel expenses to the interview will be reimbursed and relocation allowance paid for people moving town/interstate.

For a copy of the application package phone (07) 3017 1777, email 2spirits@qahc.org.au or visit www.qahc.org.au/jobs

If you have any questions contact Michael Scott, 2 Spirits Program Manager on (07) 3017 1716.

Applications close 4pm Friday 25th February, 2011.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Capacity Development

TAFF 2011 Short Film Competition 2011

The Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC) has just launched the 2011 Tropical Alternatives Film Festival (TAFF) Short Film Competition. TAFF is looking for short films that say something positive or contributes to the lives of LGBT Queenslanders. Films accepted by the judging panel will be shown at TAFF and "TAFF Presents" events screening across regional QLD throughout 2011.

Festival audiences will be asked to vote on the best film which will be awarded Best Short Film 2011 Audience Award and \$250 in cash. A new Judges' Choice Award with another \$250 in cash prize will also be made this year to the film that they consider best contributes to healthy LGBT lives.

Last year we received 14 terrific films. 'I really loved watching films last year" said Jason Russo 2010 Judge "They showed LGBT people living in Queensland and how they lived their lives".

This year we will also be accepting films made from other recording sources such as mobile phones and multimedia devices. Entries for the Short Film Competition will close on the 11th of April 2011. To find out more about how to enter the competition download the entry form at www.qahc.org.au/films or ring Amanda 3017 1733.



[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Other

News from QAHC North Queensland – Nick Connor

World AIDS Day commemorations drew large crowds in both Cairns and Townsville in 2010. In Cairns about 250 took part in the vigil held on the Esplanade. Cairns' Gay and Lesbian Choir, Out Loud, sang and speeches were made by representatives of QAHC, including our patron Dr David Bradford, PFLAG and the mayor of Cairns, Cr Val Schier.

A large artwork created by the Sweetwater group, a local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander gay men's and sister-girl arts group, was unveiled by the mayor. Students from White Rock State School

performed a dance and members of the local Papua New Guinean community held a barbeque to feed all in attendance. The vigil concluded with the release of floating t-light candles onto the Lagoon.

In Townsville a procession of about sixty people carried banners and balloons along the Strand to the Gregory St amphitheatre where they were 'drummed in' by the girls' drumming group, MASH. The assembled crowd listened to Robert Langdon of the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS make a speech in which he called for an end to discrimination against people living with HIV. Townsville City Council supported World AIDS Day by dyeing the fountain on the Strand red and Cr Vern Vetch participated in the memorial walk.

Cairns' LGBT Resource Centre, Base Camp, hosted a community Christmas party for about 120 on December 10th. Townsville's GLBTI Anti-Violence Committee Inc celebrated the season with a very successful Christmas dinner and dance party at the Rydges Hotel raising funds for this year's Pride festival.

Planning is underway for Sexual Health Awareness Week activities in Cairns and Townsville in February as well as a gay men's health retreat for the Cairns region to be held in April.



[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Community Activities

Brisbane Queer Film Festival

Always something look out for, the 12th annual Brisbane Queer Film Festival has been announced feat. a range of engaging Queer films from around the world.

This year's highlights are a celebration in diversity and include Gigola, the tale of a young French woman who loses herself in the hedonistic nightlife of 1960's Paris after the suicide of her female lover; Undertow, a stunning Peruvian story of secrets, life-after-death and love; Sasha, a film from Germany about music, family and a tangled web of untruths; and the acclaimed British drama, The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister, based on the true life story of famous nineteenth century landowner and industrialist, Anne Lister.

Stay tuned - if things couldn't get more exciting than the Festival, the Brisbane Gay Men's Health Team is currently in discussion with the Organisers around a special Feature presentation. For more info head to www.bqff.com.au



[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Brisbane North Social Group now twice a month [Brisbane \(External – QPP\)](#)

Now twice a month, the Brisbane North Social Group continues to provide social support opportunities for HIV+ people and their friends in Brisbane northern and outer suburbs. The second Sunday of the month is a revolving lunchtime outing that will be at a different location each time. This is to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to attend. We ask that you call the QPP State Resource Centre on 1800 636 241 to find out the location of the next Sunday outing. On the fourth Tuesday of the month, the group will continue to gather on the boardwalk at Moora Park, Sandgate from 12 noon for a bbq lunch with salads and drinks. **New members are always welcome.**

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Mardi Gras Parade - Gold Coast Entry **Saturday March 5th**

Rainbow Alliance is entering in the 2011 Mardi Gras Parade.

What to be part of it?

The theme for the Gold Coast entry is "Gold" (as in 'Very Good Coast'; All That Glitters Is... etc)
Participants in the group should be fabulously decked out in gold costume and make-up

Venue: Oxford Street, Sydney

Cost: A small cost will be involed to cover the entry fee. All participants will need to make their own arrangements for travel and accomodation for Sydney.

RSVP: ASAP Email to gcrainbow@live.com or SMS with your name to 0466 882 527
www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=109292715803741&index=1

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

CAMP Club 40th anniversary this year!!

It is the CAMP Club 40th anniversary in April this year there are a few plans afoot!

Firstly, you are warmly invited to a photo shoot to mark the spot where the CAMP Club once stood - and to mark this the 40th year since its gala opening.....

Where: George Street opp Tank Street in the City
When: Saturday February 19th at 1.00pm

Ian McDonald has organised a large banner for the event, and we aim to get the gay press there. We will have refreshments somewhere afterwards. Will be a bit of a mini-reunion and hoping to get some younger folk along too. So join us!

Secondly, the party itself: There will be a celebration for the 40th anniversary of the CAMP Club on the 15th April at QAHC 30 Helen Street Newstead (who are generously auspicing this night). Ideas for the night in all its respects are very, very welcome.

Lastly, a group has been chatting via email and has had one face to face meeting. The next face to face meeting is at QAHC on Saturday the 26th February at 12.30pm.

For further information on the 40th Anniversary plans, please contact via celeb.day@gmail.com

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Out West [Ipswich \(External\)](#)

LGBT Dance Party and Parade.

3rd Saturday of every month. 6.00pm – 11.55pm. Please contact Amanda on 3017 1733 for more information and venue.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Rainbow Allsorts [Toowoomba \(External\)](#)

Coffee Group @ 5.30pm
Fortnightly on a Thursday

Please contact Amanda on 3017 1733 for dates and more information.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Movie Night [Toowoomba \(External\)](#)

1st Saturday of the month

Greek Community Hall

Cnr Hume & Perth Streets, Toowoomba

Contact Eddie on edwardspantry@live.com

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Professional Events

Training Opportunities – Date extended for registrations!

In 2011 QAHC will be presenting a selection of Professional Development Training Sessions in Brisbane for health and community service providers. The workshops will occur every two weeks from March to June, there will be a variety of workshops available, from our full day Creating Inclusive Services for the LGBT client, working with various LGBT communities such as youth, seniors, families and our half day basic sexual and gender awareness and working with sex and gender diverse (Trans) clients.

As a result of the floods, some organisations are returning back to full speed after the holidays later than expected. Due to this, the date has been extended for registrations for the Brisbane 2011 Professional Development workshops until Feb 18 2011. Confirmations for workshops and request for payment will be sent out 2 weeks prior to each workshop.

The [Professional Development Training Sessions calendar](#) (click on the link) and registration form are available on the QAHC website for downloading.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Fundraising and Volunteering Opportunities

Vagina Monologues fundraising performance for Brisbane

Vagina.....a word that is not often used in polite conversation and more often than not is referred to by some cute, or otherwise, euphemism. But 2011 is the year to discuss this taboo subject and to once again hear the stories of women's experiences with their vagina's right here in Brisbane.

American playwright Eve Ensler wrote the celebrated play, 'The Vagina Monologues', to open up discussion on this important part of the female anatomy. The play basically has several women telling different stories about their experiences with their vaginas. The stories shed light on the full range of women's issues - from childbirth to rape, menstruation to orgasms and discuss empowerment, understanding and respect. Since it was first written, the play has been adapted and added to and now once again is coming to Brisbane on February 25/26.

Every time this play is performed a percentage of profits must go to the charity designated that year to fight violence against women and girls, this year's charity is the Haitian Women's Project. This new performance by local women, both well known and not so well know, along with a few surprise guests, is also a fundraiser by the QAHC Lesbian Health Action Group (LHAG), an unfunded, volunteer group working to improve the health and well being of same sex attracted women in QLD.

"It's an experience every woman should have at least once in your lifetime, an opportunity to celebrate having a vagina and all that goes with it" explained Ricki Menzies, a LHAG representative. "We plan to use any money raised, after donating to the designated charity, to inform lesbian and same sex attracted women in QLD about DV and how to maintain a healthy, happy, same sex relationship."

Tickets can be purchased with a discount from the QAHC website www.qahc.org.au/lesbian or at the door on the night. All ticket holders will also receive a free gift on the night they attend from the Lesbian Health Action Group. Please note this performance includes explicit information and graphic language it is recommended for adult audiences.

To be involved in the performance in whatever capacity, email Ricki on, rmenzies@qahc.org.au or for more information regarding the performances go to www.qahc.org.au/lesbian



[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Big Gay Day - 13 March

Big Gay Day Summer Street party is in it's 11th year & with crowds exceeding 4,000 last year, 2011 is bound to be another massive party. For more info www.biggayday.com.au

QAHC in conjunction with the Big Gay Day organisers are offering a limited number of free tickets to the party in return for your time!

From 11am, 13 March through till the early hours we are calling upon both trained volunteer (or enrolled in the new volunteer course) & untrained QAHC volunteers who have a few hours to spare who would like to have some fun interacting with party goers, handing out QAHC related info & party treats!

For more info on how you can play a part in this exciting event, contact 3017 1777 or e: info@qahc.org.au (subject line: Big Gay Day) so a roster can be developed.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Gold Coast Experience Raffle

Need a break? You and a friend could soon be enjoying three nights on the glamorous Gold Coast staying at the beautiful Silvershore Apartments, right on The Broadwater plus you'll get to enjoy some of the Gold Coast's finest experiences. Buy your winning tickets now at www.qahc.org.au/raffle for your chance to win this fantastic experience and help support LGBT Queenslanders at the same time with

all proceeds going to QAHC's Healthy Communities Fund.

While you're on the Gold Coast, you and a friend will get to experience the out of this world theme attraction, Infinity with a double entry. You'll also get to enjoy the Gold Coast's best theatre restaurant, Draculas. Your dining experience doesn't stop there as you'll also win a \$100 voucher to use at either Sage Cafe Restaurant, 1two3 Mediterranean Dining & Lounge Bar, or Yellowfin Seafood Restaurant. As well, you'll get to go shopping at the Gold Coast's premiere shopping venue, Robina Town Centre with a \$100 gift voucher. If all of this leaves you a little worn out, don't worry, you can relax with two one-hour massages from Griffin's House. To help you get to the Coast, or to use for spending money, we're also throwing in \$250 cash. Total prize value is over \$1455!

All the prizes have been generously donated to QAHC to help us fundraise for the Healthy Communities Fund so that we can support LGBT projects and groups across Queensland. Please show your support for our community and buy a ticket (or three) and you and a friend could soon be enjoying this fabulous holiday on the Gold Coast. Tickets are just \$5 each (or get three tickets for every \$10 spent) with a limit of only 1000 tickets in the draw! Secure your winning chances now at www.qahc.org.au/raffle. Tickets are also available from QAHC offices in Cairns, Maroochydore and Brisbane.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors: Silvershore Apartments; Griffin's House; Sage Cafe Restaurant/1two3 Mediterranean Dining & Lounge Bar/Yellowfin Seafood Restaurant; Dracula's; Infinity, and Robina Town Centre. Please support those that support our community.



Raffle Gold Coast Experience

First Prize:

- 3 nights for two at Silvershore Apartments, Gold Coast (value \$600)
- Two one-hour massages from Griffin's House (value \$170)
- \$100 dining voucher to use at either Sage Cafe Restaurant, 1two3 Mediterranean Dining & Lounge Bar, or Yellowfin Seafood Restaurant
- \$100 shopping voucher to use at Robina Town Centre
- Double entry to Infinity (value \$49.80)
- Dinner and show for two at Dracula's theatre restaurant (value \$186)
- \$250 cash for travel or spending

Total Prize Value = \$1455
Drawn: Thursday 31 March 2011 @ noon.

Supporting QAHC's Healthy Communities Fund & LGBT Queenslanders

Tickets
ONLY 1000 TICKETS
Great winning odds.
\$5 each or three for every \$10.

Tickets available from:
• QAHC offices: Brisbane, Cairns, Sunshine Coast.
• www.qahc.org.au/raffle

QAHC Queensland Association for Healthy Communities Inc.

Thanks to all of our sponsors for your generosity. Please support those that support the LGBT community.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

We're very grateful to everyone who has shown so much generosity by donating to the QAHC Flood Appeal which is assisting LGBT Queenslanders affected by the recent devastating floods. You can still donate to the appeal by going to www.qahc.org.au/floods.

For those affected by flooding, you can also find information on how to access assistance on the website and download an application form. If you need a copy posted or faxed out, please call Jason on 07 3017 1728. The website and application form also contain information about a number of mainstream services providing support (e.g. Centrelink) and we strongly encourage you to also apply to these organisations.

[Top](#)

[Next](#)

Lesbian Calendar – Get Yours Now!

With 2011 well underway, now is the time to get your lesbian calendar to get the full use out of it. This beautifully designed calendar features gorgeous imagery of the female form and is also designed to raise awareness on cervical cancer/screening in the lesbian community. If you purchase a calendar now, we'll also throw in a bonus free calendar that you can give to a friend, who knows, it could even save their life! All monies raised from sales of the calendar go towards sustaining the unfunded work of the QAHC Lesbian Health Action Group, so you're supporting a very good cause.

Calendars are just two for \$10 (plus \$2.50 P&H). Get your calendars online at www.qahc.org.au/lesbian or drop into our office at 30 Helen St, Teneriffe to pick up your copies.

Thank you to all of the wonderful LGBT-friendly businesses and organisations who sponsored the calendar and made it possible.

Links to Community Resources

Brisbane

<http://qahc.org.au>

Qld Association for Healthy Communities Inc

<http://qgroups.com.au/>

Qnews Community Group Listings

<http://www.changelingaspects.com/index.htm>

Changeling Aspects

<http://www.atsaq.com/>

ATSAQ – Australian Transgender Support Association of Queensland Inc

<http://www.opendoors.net.au>

Open Doors

<http://www.brisbaneglbn.org>

Brisbane Gay & Lesbian Business Network (GLBN)

<http://qpp.org.au>

Queensland Positive People

Central Coast (including Sunshine Coast)

www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au

You will find information for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender community in the Sunshine

Coast. Covers event, social and support groups, health information, health services and more.

www.gayrocky.com

You will find information for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender community in the Rockhampton area. Covers event, social and support groups, health information, health services and more.

www.fraser gays.com

This website supports the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people in the Fraser Coast area. Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Fraser Island, Gympie, Bundaberg.

Gold Coast & Logan

<http://www.gayonthegoldcoast.com>

Gay on the Gold Coast is a new website that will keep you up to date with LGBT activities, groups and services on the Gold Coast. Gay on the Gold Coast is a QAHC initiative to give the LGBT community a website to enhance social opportunities and information.

<http://www.goldcoastgayday.com>

Gold Coast Gay Day is a festival for the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender community, their family and friends. Please check back for regular updates on Gold Coast Gay Day 2011.

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Logan-Rainbow/100000742765606>

LGBT Social Group for Logan and surrounding areas.

<http://www.qspace.net.au>

Qspace for LGBTIQ youth on the Gold Coast have moved to Wednesdays at 4pm. Qspace is for under 18yr olds. For more information on Qspace and support for young LGBTIQ people contact Anna on Telephone: (07) 5569 1827, mobile: 0437 013 710.

Rainbow Alliance have been holding regular “get togethers”, most recently Yum Cha, Ice Skating with plenty happening for the rest of the year. For information email or text Rainbow Alliance at gcrainbow@live.com or SMS you name to 0466 882 527

The Harvesters Club

The Harvesters Club is a Gentlemens only dinner club. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, at different restaurants on the Gold Coast, which we book out and are closed to the public.

For further information please contact Noel at

PO Box 5885
Gold Coast MC QLD 9726
Phone: 07 5570 1571
Email: harvesters69@optusnet.com.au

Redlands Region

http://www.facebook.com/amandaextrem?v=wall&story_fbid=133520703353770#!/group.php?gid=123166191055457&ref=ts

This group is for LGBT and allied people, groups and businesses who live / work / play in the Redlands area.

Toowoomba & Ipswich

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=103881489667269>

West Moreton AIDS Memorial Quilt Project - HIV/AIDS is a worldwide problem that knows no territorial or cultural borders. It is a disease that can be only fought globally with global understanding. You can help by encouraging friends to create panels for their loved ones. Make a panel yourself. Your contribution will bring about a truly international Quilt spirit."

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=104328909605210&ref=ts>

Toowoomba Lesbian Group – Come along and meet new people. Everyone welcome!

Cairns

Cairns Rainbow Kids

Cairns Rainbow Kids meet in Cairns each week on Friday mornings from 9.30 until 12, at a variety of places so please email or message us to find out where we will be this week.

The group provides a fun weekly activity for children while also providing an opportunity to meet other LGBT parents for socializing.

We are on Facebook – Search for Cairns Rainbow Kids or email us on cairns.rainbow.kids@gmail.com

QAHC Contact Details

Qld Association of Healthy Communities Inc - Brisbane

Ph: 07 3017 1777 email: info@qahc.org.au

Fax: 07 3852 5200 web: www.qahc.org.au

Postal Address: PO 1372, Eagle Farm BC Qld 4009

Street address: 30 Helen St, Newstead Qld 4006

Sexual Health information & referral	1800 155 141
Indigenous Gay Men & Sista Girl	07 3017 1736
Members	07 3017 1779
Volunteers	07 3017 1777
Donations and Bequests	07 3017 1728

Qld Association for Healthy Communities Inc – Sunshine Coast (including Central Coast)

Postal Address: PO Box 2077, Sunshine Plaza Qld 4558

Street Address: 10 Pikki Street, Maroochydore Qld 4558

Phone: 07 5451 1118

Qld Association for Healthy Communities Inc – Cairns

Postal Address: PO Box 12112, Cairns Qld 4870

Street Address: 290 Draper Street, Cairns Qld 4870

Phone: 07 4041 5451 Freecall: 1800 884 401

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