



DiversityACT

Diversity ACT Newsletter

President's Report – Delia Quigley

This year has seen increased activities and progress on a number of fronts and our committee is working well together towards strengthening the organisation. We have continued to receive referrals and work with clients, providing supports for the LGBTIQ community, families and friends.

Last year we started supporting students to undertake Placements with us. This has resulted in last years' Youth Work placement, Alex, working with us to develop an InterACT Youth Grant application, which was successful, providing for the establishment of Queer Youth Together (QyouT).

QyouT began in March this year and now has a solid core group of young people coming every 2nd Wednesday to undertake a number of different activities that have been interesting,

engaging and just good fun! It is wonderful to hear the laughter coming from a room full of young people, and to see smiling parents who can hear their child laughing and having fun again.

As a result of the QyouT group we now also have interest from the parents to have a group that they too can be a part of, to support each other in enhancing the wellbeing of their children. We will be advancing work on this parents group in coming weeks.

Another CIT Youth Work student recently commenced placement with us. Kris, Alex and Brandon are now working together to ensure the long-term success of QyouT. We also have a volunteer from a disability support placement service – her name is Julia. If you drop into the Hub during our opening hours you may meet a host of different people apart from just Delia and Michel.

We have had increasing interest in establishing another two groups, one for retirees and one for Trans and Gender Diverse members of our community. We are now looking to commence the development & implementation for programming in these two groups too!

We are proud to announce that we were successful in our application to the Commonwealth Government for a Strengthening Communities Volunteers Grant. This grant will provide us with an ability to broaden our Volunteers base, and provide reimbursements & additional training such as first aid. During National Volunteers week we provided induction training for a small group of new volunteers.

In addition to the Strengthening Communities Grant we have also received a reimbursement

grant for a Mental Health Week Event. See the upcoming events information for more details on 'Out of Our Minds'. We are also very grateful for a couple of anonymous donations to Diversity which have contributed to our ongoing costs, and helped us to keep the doors open, the insurance paid and the phone connected.

I recently gave a guest presentation at Out for Australia on networking and mentoring. Our Secretary Megan was also a guest speaker and panel member at a Marriage Equality forum hosted by Amnesty International at ANU.

The committee & members are invited to attend a Strategic Planning evening on the 21st of June to work on our future directions for the coming financial year.

Early in July, I will once again be conducting 2 CDP (Compulsory Development Program) training sessions with our friends at Lifeline Canberra, providing Telephone Crisis Supporters with an increased understanding to assist those of our community in Crisis.

From the Editor

Welcome to our newsletter! I figured that community organisations have newsletters, so we should have one too. And it seems like a reasonable task for the Secretary to put one together, so here we go!

It's been a delight to be a part of the Diversity ACT community since joining in 2015 and coming on to the Committee at the end of last year. There's so much happening in and around the LGBTIQ+ community in Canberra and there's certainly never a shortage of stuff for me to do.

Now, if we are going to have a regular newsletter, it really needs a better title than the one this one has. How dull is it? So, competition time! Submit your proposal for a title for the newsletter to win the undying appreciation of the Secretary, the pride of seeing your title on the newsletter every 3 months, and a block of chocolate.

Entries can be submitted to me via email: megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au – please have your entry in by 30 June 2017.

Enjoy perusing your newsletter, and feel free to provide copy for the next one!

Cheers,

Megan

Treasurer's Report – Michel Hansen

Diversity ACT is achieving a lot on limited finances. Our current fundraising efforts include BBQ's, market days, hiring of the Hub and renting of office space. The committee would love to hear from members about other ideas to supplement our finances and increase our operating potential.

We are looking at a membership drive to increase our numbers. Can you encourage people to become members and support our fantastic organisation help the LGBTIQ+ people of Canberra and surrounding areas?

Queer Youth Together – Alex Duncan (Youth Worker)

QyouT has been running since March this year and is slowly gaining more members. We have been creating a space where young people can relax, be themselves and interact with each other in a no pressure environment. We have a variety of activities coming up including a discussion of sexual health for LGBTIQ+ people. We work with the members of QyouT, so that they have control over what things we will be doing in future events. We gather on a fortnightly basis on Wednesdays however there has been interest expressed in a weekly gathering from the young people involved. I'd like to thank everyone involved with QyouT. Without you this wouldn't be able to happen.

One of the things the QyouT members have done recently was make an Easter gift for the young people in the residential Tedd Noffs program. Here's a photo of Alex and Brandon delivering the spectacularly decorated Easter basket.



We also had a great night with some LGBTIQ+ young people who came down from Sydney to talk about flow performance (as an exercise in mindfulness) and give us a demonstration of fire twirling. We also all got a chance to try twirling poi.



Rainbow Christian Alliance and Dare Café

Rainbow Christian Alliance (Canberra) and Dare Café (Goulburn) are our very successful Christian fellowships for sexually and gender diverse people. Each service happens once a month. Recent Canberra services have included an exploration of the music of inclusion, and a focus on coming out stories. Dare Café has added a monthly bible study to their calendar.

RCA and Dare Café events are shared on our Facebook page each month. Any interested folk are welcome to join us for a pot luck meal and a fun evening.

Upcoming Events

Fundraising BBQ's

Can you give us an hour of your time on any of the following dates?

Woolworths Mawson: 29 July, 19 August, 2 September, 28 October

The Green Shed, Mugga Lane – coming soon

Trans & Gender Diverse Group

An introductory meeting is happening at the Hub on July 16th from 3-5pm. Watch the

facebook page and the web page for further details. There will be food and conversation!

Out of Our Minds

Our Mental Health Week activity (and market day) 14 October 2017. Book the date in your diary– we’re lining up some great guest speakers/performers for this one.

Community News

Mardi Gras – many thanks to Delia & Doug for the photos.



Four members of the committee and the leadership team from QyouT marched at Mardi Gras this year. We marched with Uniting Network, in support of LGBTIQ+ refugees. It was the first time marching for most of us, and apart from Brandon’s shoe falling apart a great time was had by all.



Should we have our own float for next year? The committee members

think yes, and Michel is investigating costs of bus hire, shirt printing and marching registration. Are you interested? Send us an email!

Rainbow Storytime

Canberra Library Tribe came over to the Hub and provided readings of children’s books about diversity. It was a fun event, which brought some new people to the Hub. Hopefully the Library Tribe will be joining us again in October at ‘Out of our Minds’.

Speaking Gigs

A couple of committee members have represented Diversity ACT at public speaking events recently.

Here’s Delia speaking about networking and mentoring in the context of current world events at Out for Australia



Here’s Megan speaking at an Amnesty Forum on Marriage Equality at the ANU.



Fundraising

Your committee have been investigating many and varied options in regards to raising funds to help us meet our overheads and provide services to the LGBTIQ+ community in Canberra and the region.

Our fundraising BBQ’s contribute much needed regular funds, to help us pay for the Insurance and all the costs associated with the Hub. Our

recent grant of \$3700 from the Department of Social Security and it's allocated to supporting our volunteers. Watch the facebook page for information about financial support for Diversity volunteers to improve their skills in areas like first aid or suicide prevention. The Mental Health Week re-imbusement grant will allow us to cover travel costs for a guest speaker for the 'Out of Our Minds' event.

We were very excited to receive \$1500 from the Youth InterACT Grants Program to help us establish QyouT. So far we have been spending those funds on food, craft supplies and the costs associated with the folk coming to teach the youth how to twirl fire. There are plans ahead for live musicians and other activities. We have also received an anonymous donation of \$500 for QyouT.

We are always looking for other sources of funding, and so far this year we have completed several other grant applications. We'll keep you posted about how we go there. If you have any suggestions about other funding sources, please send an email to info@diversityact.org.au

Education

Who saw Bruce's article in the ACTCOSS newsletter? There's a copy of the article on our website if you haven't seen it yet. Thanks Bruce for putting together a fascinating piece about the human economy from the LGBTIQ+ perspective.

One of the goals for this year is for us to regularly contribute to the ACTCOSS newsletter, as this is another way for us to meet our goal to continuously advance a culture of inclusion in the ACT.

Governance

We are starting on the process of reviewing our policy documents, following on from changes to the requirements around privacy that come into effect in 2018. We are also starting on the journey towards a Reconciliation Action Plan. Any members who are interested in being a part of the process? Please send Delia an email about it – delia.quigley@diversityact.org.au

Social Worker

Don't forget that Michel Hansen is our resident Social Worker, and is available once per month on a Saturday from 9-5 at the Hub. Michel can assist you with applications, support and advocacy, counselling, or just come down and have a chat. Check the website for details of dates.

