



DiversityACT

Diversity Digest

President's Report – Delia Quigley

The last few months have been busy, amazing, creative and a time of growth. During the last 12 months we have had two Youth Worker student placements complete their qualifications and are now assisting us as volunteers to run our Queer Youth Together (QyouT) group. It is wonderful to hear young people enjoying themselves, learning, laughing and having fun!

We also have 3 Community Services students currently undertaking work placements with us. The feedback we are receiving from them as students and their Education Providers regarding their exposure to all aspects of the administration and running of a small community organisation has been very rewarding.

In recent months we ran a Wear it Purple Trivia night & benefitted from donations from 2 LGBTIQ workplace networks, which has funded

us to do more work with Youth and we are looking to start a 10-14 years age group as a result.

We ran our first ever Mental Health week event – Out of our Minds in October. We received support from Minister Gai Brodtmann, community members, the Qwire and the Mental Health Minister spoke candidly and answered impromptu questions regarding A.C.T. government supports for the mental health of our community. We received positive feedback and are looking forward to undertaking another Mental Health week activity in 2018.

We have continued to provide more assistance & supports to community members through receiving referrals and provided a number of Food Assistance hampers during the winter period through our partnership with Tuggeranong Uniting Church.

We are looking forward to our AGM and the upcoming Christmas period where we hope to again provide Hampers of love to our community members in need.

From the Editor

First up – congratulations to Chery for providing a name for this publication. Chery – I owe you a block of chocolate.

Secondly – it's been great to be adding new people to the membership and volunteers list. To all those for whom this is the first copy of Diversity Digest, welcome to the community. Anytime you want to add some content to the newsletter, please feel free to send it to me at megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au

Megan

Treasurer's Report – Michel Hansen

Diversity is going great guns at the moment with several grants being awarded which is giving us the ability to offer more groups and support services.

The Trivia night was a success with over \$1000 made to help support us with paying our bills. We also received a donation from DFAT's LGBTIQ+ network for over \$750, and the Attorney General's Department Bake Sale for \$1100. Thank you to the DFAT and AG's Networks for their support.



1. DFAT LGBTI Network on Wear it Purple Day

Our regular BBQ's at Woolworths at Mawson is also helping with our expenses. We are always looking at ways to fundraise so if you have an idea we would love to hear about it.

As of August 2017 we have a new accountant who has extensive experience working with charities. They are current going over our accounts and once this has been finalised we will announce the date for our AGM.

Please remember if you make a donation of \$2 or more to ask for a receipt as you can claim your donation at tax time.

We still need more members and volunteers. All volunteers need to be members of Diversity ACT. Membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December in each calendar year.

Queer Youth Together – Phoebe

Our Queer Youth Together (QyouT) group continues to be a safe, friendly, fun and educational place for our youth to come relax and be themselves while engaging in social activities with peers. We are proud to say Alex (our youth group leader) has been included in the publicity video for this year's round of InterACT grants! You can see Alex representing us here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV_3YRg8OP4

In July and August the QyouT group enjoyed being involved in ice-skating, playing torch tag, a games nights and talking about the future of ACT education.

In August two of our volunteers went to Mary Mackillop School to represent Diversity ACT and spread the



word about the QyouT group, offering the students a safe space and encouraging them to come along to our youth nights if they are interested in being involved.

2. Some of the QyouT members in discussion. Even Hamish the dog joins in.

Diversity ACT would like to extend an invitation to any LGBTIQ+ young people aged 12-24

interested in joining our youth group to come along to one of our QyouT nights, and hopefully continue to come if it is something you enjoy and a place you felt comfortable. We are working hard to ensure our activities continue to be both fun and educational for everyone involved. We would love to see some more new faces at QyouT.

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.

At the request of the members of those groups, to help our rainbow family during the postal survey campaign period, we ran a service of love and support at City Uniting Church on 5 October.



3 A rainbow of light and love – Photo by Jack Barnard

Upcoming Events

Fundraising BBQ's

The BBQ's are continuing, and are an important source of regular income. It's been great to see more members of the Diversity community

helping out. If you can give an hour of your time for the next one, please send Megan an email – megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au

Woolworths Mawson: 25 November, 23 December

Platypus Paddle

Food, conversation and community for Trans, Intersex and Gender Diverse people, their family and friends. Meetings currently happening on the first Saturday of every month at 2pm at the Hub.

Community News

Trivia Night



4. Some of the folks who attended and enjoyed the Trivia Night

What a great evening this was! We had nearly 40 people attending, and it was a night of laughter and conversation. Many of us learned some new and interesting facts about Wear it Purple Day, the ingredients in Megan's minestrone soup and Australian Prime Ministers who have died in their offices. There was an abundance of food, and we raised \$1100 dollars.

We are particularly grateful to the people and businesses who donated prizes. Doug's Word Clocks, Pam Todd-Alia, Coffee Guru Erindale,

Red Dove Clothing, the GLLO network, Dragonfly Hair & Beauty, and Anne Ryan – you all rock!

Out of Our Minds – Phuong and Phoebe

On Saturday the 14th of October Diversity ACT

held a fete for mental health week to raise awareness of mental health and its impact on our community, and to raise some funds to help continue running Diversity ACT. Phuong and I spent part of our Saturday attending the event, helping set up and assisting where needed.

This helped us both putting hours towards our work placement, learning event management and using our communication skills. We listened to stories of our guests and their battles with mental illness, bringing awareness and understanding to what our community needs are and how we as an LGBTIQ+ organisation can help.

“It was very beautiful to listen to people speak and be open about who they are. In my country of Vietnam, people are not open about themselves. I enjoyed being a part of something so powerful and moving” – Phuong talking about her experience at ‘Out of Our Minds’.

Both Phuong and Phoebe would love to be a part of more events supporting



Children and toy dogs learning how to spin at 'Out of Our Minds'.



mental health and the LGBTIQ+ community. The entertainment, stalls and guest speakers all worked together to make the day wonderful. The BBQ was pretty great too.

Phoebe and Phuong are two of our students on work placement

Fundraising

Our thanks to the folks who ran and contributed to the Attorney-General’s Department Wear it Purple Day Cake Stall, for their incredible donation of \$1100! What a sterling effort!! Also a great effort from DFAT’s LGBTIQ+ network, with a \$750 donation.



6 some of the team from Same Same Apparel at 'Out of Our Minds'.

The folk from Same Same Apparel have been making

regular donations from their profits, for which we are most grateful. And they had a stall at ‘Out of Our Minds’ as well.

Canberra Roller Derby held their Rainbow Round recently. Delia & Michel collected donations for Diversity ACT from the crowd as they arrived, and were very impressed by the speed and physicality of Roller Derby. We are very grateful for the \$170 that was donated.

As always, we are seeking other sources of funding, and so far this year we have completed multiple 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

The Winter issue of the ACT Council of Social Services newsletter has an article written by Megan about the LGBTIQ+ experience of intersectionality and white privilege. If you haven't read it yet, here's the link:

<https://www.actcoss.org.au/publications/quarterly-journal-update/update-issue-80-winter-2017-what-impact-white-privilege>

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. Diversity ACT would also like to welcome on board Dunja Radosavljevic who is also an experienced social worker. Michel and Dunja are available for appointments. They can assist you with applications, support and advocacy, counselling, or just come down and have a chat. Please contact Diversity ACT to make a time to meet with either Michel or Dunja.



7 some of the Diversity ACT volunteers at 'Out of Our Minds'. Doug, Megan, Phuong & Phoebe.