



Diversity Digest

The official newsletter of Diversity ACT

Winter 2022



President's report

Is there such a thing as a quiet quarter for Diversity ACT? Answer - definitely not. (And that's probably a good thing, when you think about it. An organisation such as ours has so much to achieve that standing still would mean going backwards.)

Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of the Diversity Digest. This has snuck up upon us all, but would you believe that Diversity ACT celebrates its 10th Birthday on 25 June 2022? (Or at least that's what the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission data tells me.) The Management Committee will be working together to create an event to celebrate the past decade, and look forward to the next. Please keep your eyes open for an invitation to that event.

Unfortunately, this is the last newsletter that will be produced by the outgoing Chair of our Communication subcommittee, the incredible Angel Hellyer. Angel has made an immeasurable contribution to the quality and standard of our communications in their time at the helm. They have put in place policies and procedures that will ensure the future quality of those communications.

Angel has also given the same level of commitment to their work with the Policy and Governance Subcommittee. I believe Angel has received more votes of thanks from the Management Committee than any other subcommittee Chair, certainly within my time with Diversity ACT.

At a personal level, Angel has been one of the people who has kept me going when the work of my position was overwhelming, and I thank them immensely. I am sure that all our members join me in thanking Angel for their service, and wishing them all the best in whatever lies before them.

Looking forward though, there are already community events arranged for August, October and December. October is Mental Health Month, and anyone who is interested in running an extra event that month is encouraged to get in touch with the Events team. The Management Committee discussed a date for the AGM at the June meeting; it will happen in November. (We don't want to clash/be the day after the bush dance, so need to find out the date for that event first.)

I hope that you enjoy the many and varied articles and reports in this newsletter. If you have any suggestions for the committee moving forward, please don't hesitate to contact me at President@diversityact.org.au.

Southside Women's Group

Southside Women is a social group for same-sex attracted women and non-binary folk.

We held a range of fun activities over the past few months, including attending the Queer Variety Show, the Rainbow Paws Drag Bingo Awesome 80's night, catching up for a movie at Limelight Cinema and seeing Bangarang at Flazed April Antics.



Our next activity will be Jive at the Hive at 1pm on Saturday 18th of June at the Hive in Crawford St Queanbeyan.. Please check the [Southside Women Facebook group](#) for more details.

Queer Youth Together

Queer Youth Together (QyouT, pronounced "cute") is Diversity ACT's youth group. The group caters for LGBTIAQ+ young people and allies from 12 to 24 years of age. We meet at the Diversity Hub on Saturday afternoons during school terms (except for public holiday weekends).

Not all QyouT members have provided permission for the use of their photos, so you have a select few of the members appearing in this newsletter.

The young people have chosen a great program for Term Two. The highlights so far have been our IDAHOBIT Road Trip and an afternoon at Grill'd. While kicking back at Grill'd, playing games and eating nommy food is fun anytime, it's even better when we get to vote for ourselves in the Local Matters fundraiser!

The IDAHOBIT Road Trip was a fun time. We are very grateful to YWCA Canberra for allowing us to use their bus, so we

could all travel together. We spent Saturday afternoon roaming Canberra and taking photos at significant sites for the LGBTIAQ+ community.

Obviously we started at the Diversity Hub! Then it was off to the Northside for afternoon tea at Tilley's, and photo opportunities at AGA; the Rainbow Roundabout; Meridian; the Legislative Assembly and Parliament House. We had lots of conversations about LGBTIAQ+ history in Canberra, and the young people are very keen to get into the back rooms at the Legislative Assembly and Parliament House.



Looking forward, we will be preparing for being job ready, having a games day, celebrating the 18th birthday of one of our members, and planning for the school holidays and Term Three. We are hoping to get the crew from [A-Z at Lanyon](#) to join us at the [Wear It Purple Trivia Night in August](#), and maybe for one of the school holiday activities.

Our leadership team of Sezi, Aster, Megan and Amelia are always happy to chat with parents and young people who are interested in getting involved with QyouT. You can contact us at youth@diversityact.org.au.



Share the Dignity

Diversity ACT was proud to be a donation point for [Share the Dignity's](#) March drive. This year was our first engagement with [Share the Dignity](#). We were a little late to the party, but we still managed to collect two full shopping bags of sanitary items which have been donated to assist Share the Dignity in supporting vulnerable people in crisis and experiencing period poverty.

Decorating the collection box was a great opportunity for our young people to learn something about period poverty, and the work done by Share the

Dignity. Having participated for the first time this year, we hope to go on to bigger and better things with our donations next year.

Many thanks to those members who made donations of sanitary products.



Free tickets to the Qwire Concert

[Qwire Concert](#)

18 June 2022 at 3pm (yes, that's this Saturday). Qwire are performing at the Bicentennial Hall in Queanbeyan, and Diversity ACT has 5 free tickets to give away. Send us an email on Friday to go into the draw: info@diversityact.org.au



Research and Resources

Where are the Rainbow Resources?

Aurora and GiveOUT have recently released a new report: [Where are the Rainbow Resources? Understanding the funding needs of the LGBTIQ+ community sector in Australia](#). This national research report aims to increase understanding of the funding needs of LGBTIQ+ communities in Australia.

Drawing on a sector-wide survey, interviews with LGBTIQ+ community

Level Up! An LGBTIQ+ gaming study

The International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience (INQYR) is exploring LGBTIQ+ youth's positive and negative experiences of video gaming and video gaming communities, and how this relates to wellbeing.

They are seeking participants aged 14 to 29 years old living in Canada, the USA, the UK, Australia, or Mexico who

leaders, and a national literature review, this ground-breaking report explores the issues impacting LGBTIQ+ communities in Australia today, what the sector working on these issues looks like, and the pivotal role it plays.

identify as a sexual or gender minority person and play video games regularly on any platform to take part in a survey taking approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

Participants may enter a raffle to win one of ten \$50 CAD Amazon gift cards (or rough local currency equivalent) and may also be eligible to participate in an interview with a further incentive.

To learn more about the study and participate in the survey, head to www.INQYR.org/levelup

[Read the report](#)

[Learn more about the research](#)

Subcommittee news

We are seeking new members for our sub-committees, so if you're interested in being part of the work we do, this is your chance! Find out more [on our website](#), and [watch our video](#).

To apply for one of these roles, email info@diversityact.org.au with a paragraph on why you want to join the committee and what you will bring. Preference will be given to people who bring a form of diversity not currently represented in the existing sub-committee membership.

Communication

- Angel Hellyer (outgoing chair), Arjun Mathilakath

Hopefully you've noticed that our social media channels have been more active! Please let us know what you think of the direction we're going by emailing communications@diversityact.org.au

Do you enjoy working with social media? Want to help us get the word out about what we do? Enjoy editing and proofreading? Or maybe you love crunching the numbers so we can improve our communication? We'd love to have you come on board and join the team! Send an email to communications@diversityact.org.au and we can have a chat about what you can achieve on the Comms subcommittee.

Education and Training

- Shay-Leigh Willis (chair), Daniel Putra

Events & Outreach

- Liz Stephens (chair), Megan Watts, Luka Musicki

After twice having to postpone due to rain, we held the Autumn Garden Party on 30 April at the Lions Youth Haven Westward Hall. Guest speakers from local community gardens provided a range of ideas on setting up a sustainable garden at the Diversity Hub, Sally Holliday from Landcare ACT provided a wellbeing through nature activity table, and Canberra Modern Jive Dance Club Company provided a dance performance and lesson.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help out at our Purple Dance Party on Saturday 29 October. Please contact us if you can help. A fun night is planned with some great entertainment. Early bird tickets are now available; see the events section below for more details.

We are looking for more people who enjoy planning events to join the Events committee.

See elsewhere in the newsletter for more details on upcoming events.

NOT SO BINARY

Representation matters. Far too often, people who sit outside the gender/sexuality binary are only represented in the media as victims of violence and discrimination. We are changing that by representing the power and creativity of bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and non-binary people in the [*Not So Binary* project](#).

Not So Binary is a photographic exploration and unpacking of gender. It explores and responds to the use of language as a weapon against the LGBTIAQ+ community. It features members of the Canberra LGBTIAQ+ community, arranged and shot by their peers.

The March photoshoot happened, and all those involved in both shoots have been provided with their photos to choose their favourites. Empress is now going through the chosen photos and working them up for the exhibition.

The multiple COVID delays that impacted on shooting have of course also delayed the exhibition, which is the final element of this project. The Diversity Hub is not a suitable venue for a winter launch, so we are seeking out alternative venues. If you have any suggestions of a Southside site that would be appropriate, please get in touch with Megan at President@diversityact.org.au.

Not So Binary is funded through the Capital of Equality grants program.



Finance and Fundraising

Some very exciting fundraising news this time around. We have been successful in our application for the Community Services Directorate (CSD) Technology Upgrade Grant. The CSD paperwork has been lodged, and we are looking forward to the deposit of \$3773 for improving the current administration IT set up, enhancing our site security with web-based security cameras, and improving wifi access in the grounds, to enable COVID-safe outdoor meetings. Many thanks to Michael Still for his technical support in preparing the grant application.

QyouT were runners up in the May Local Matters fundraising at Grill'd Woden. We appreciate all those people who ate burgers and added tokens to the QyouT jar. We don't yet know how much money will be forthcoming, but the young people will have fun deciding what to spend it on.

Research and Analysis

- Megan Watts (chair)

As is often the case, the Research and Analysis subcommittee has shared a number of opportunities to participate in research to the Diversity ACT social media. In addition, we have developed our plan for activities over the next 12 months, which was approved at the last meeting of the Management Committee.

Following a request from a Diversity ACT member, we contacted the Australia Institute asking for information about their data collection practices for LGBTIAQ+ people. We have just received a response, which includes an invitation to talk further with the Institute about what sort of data we think needs to be collected and analysed. We will take up that offer, and we are also planning on broadening the conversation with other



think tanks and research agencies in the future.

Our next big task is developing the member survey. We hope that this will turn into an annual practice that will inform the Management Committee's forward planning and thus the goals and activities of the organisation. Anyone who likes writing questions or analysing data is welcome to join us! This time around, we will be including the question about what sort of data organisations like the Australia Institute could collect.

Like many of the subcommittees, we are always keen to have more members to spread the load of seeking out research opportunities, creating submissions and hopefully conducting some research of our own. Please contact us at research@diversityact.org.au if you would like to get involved.

If you're keen to help us do more in this space, [watch this video](#) about what we do, and apply for a role!



Policy and Governance

- Angel Hellyer (outgoing chair), Sarah Hanrahan

We've been kept busy the last few months doing a full review of Diversity ACT's policies, procedures and forms. We've found a few ways we can improve our governance, to ensure that Diversity ACT has the highest levels of transparency, accountability and inclusion.

Over the next few months, we'll be working with the Committee to implement those changes.

As Megan noted above, Angel is stepping back from their work at Diversity ACT at this point, so we can use more people to help with this implementation. If you're keen to help out, [watch this video](#) about what we do, and apply for a role!



Property Management

- Liz Stephens (chair), Michael Still

The Diversity Garden Group is planning to meet up in June to discuss further plans for creating a sustainable garden. We had new people join the group at the Autumn Garden Party on 30 April, but we can still use more members if you would like to join.

We are looking for more people to join our group which aims to help maintain and develop a garden for all to enjoy.

Subcommittee Members and Chairs

We're seeking motivated and passionate people to fill some vacant positions on our [subcommittees](#)

Subcommittee members are volunteer positions that report to the chair of the relevant subcommittee. The time commitment is approximately five hours/month.

Subcommittee members must be available for regular subcommittee meetings and/or discussions; these may take place online or face to face.

The other duties of the subcommittee member will depend on the specific subcommittee. We are currently seeking members for:

- [Communication](#)
- [Policy and governance](#)
- [Research and analysis.](#)

Subcommittee members should have:

- Mandatory attributes: over 15 years of age, Diversity ACT membership
- Highly desirable attributes: (current, or seeking to obtain) WWVP registration, pre-existing skills in the relevant subcommittee field (a willingness to develop such skills is also welcome)
- Personal qualities: passion for LGBTIAQ+ inclusion, willingness to develop current knowledge of the issues facing LGBTIAQ+ people in the ACT, looking for mentoring/growth opportunities.

[Find out more](#) or apply by emailing info@diversityact.org.au

Upcoming events

Drop-in sessions

Drop-In currently happens at the Hub most Saturday afternoons across the year. Anyone interested in our work, or who has some free time and wants to have a chat, is most welcome to join us at the Hub.

We would love to open the Hub more often, but that requires a few more people who can donate some time. If you are interested in volunteering in this way, there's training and support available for you.

Repair Café

Diversity ACT has once again been providing refreshments, including home-baked goodies, at the [Tuggeranong Repair Café](#). This event, run by SEE-Change, has volunteers who help repair broken household items at no charge to prevent them from going to landfill.

It is held from 1 to 4pm on the fourth Sunday of each month at 245 Cowlshaw St Tuggeranong. The next event is on 26 June 2022.

Want to help out? We would love more volunteers to provide sweet and savoury food options, as well as staff the café. You can [sign up to volunteer](#) or email President@diversityact.org.au

Wear It Purple Trivia Night

20 August 2022 from 6.30pm at Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club, 101 Cowlshaw St, Greenway

Trivia, food, fun, entertainment and raising money for LGBTIAQ+ youth: what better way to spend an evening?

Our annual trivia night for Wear It Purple Day is back and we're so excited to see what random knowledge comes up this year. Start planning your teams and [get your tickets!](#)

[Purple Dance Party](#)

29 October 2022, from 6.30 to 11.30pm at the Weston Creek Community Centre.

We had to postpone this SpringOUT event last year due to COVID-19 and we're looking forward to dancing the night away!

A fun night is planned with some great entertainment. The disco, the bar and the entertainers are confirmed.

Early bird tickets are now available! - [Get your tickets](#).

Joint event with the Kambah Community Garden

6 November 2022. Details to be finalised

Diversity ACT Open Day and AGM

Date to be confirmed - either 13 or 20 November. Watch the social media for updates.



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Diversity ACT Community Services

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Australia

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