

WELCOME TO THE FIFTH EDITION OF OUR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LGBTI LEGAL SERVICE INC



PRIDE MONTH 2021

Every June, Pride Month celebrates the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. It's a time to reflect on just how far civil rights have progressed in half a century and an opportunity to protest discrimination and violence. Known as the "Mother of Pride", it was Brenda Howard who coordinated the first LGBT Pride march. As well as sparking the idea for a week of events around Pride Day. These events then developed into the annual LGBT celebrations held every June.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month Fact Sheet



Q: WHAT IS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH?

LGBTQ+ pride month is a worldwide celebration, dedicated to uplift the LGBTQ+ voices, honour LGBTQ+ culture and support LGBTQ+ rights by promoting a positive stance against discrimination and violence towards the LGBTQ+ community. A wide variety of events are held every month of June since the first pride march in 1970.



Q: WHY IS IT CALLED PRIDE?

Pride, as opposed to shame and social stigma, is the outlook that strengthens most LGBTQ+ rights groups and movements around the world. The use of the word "pride" to define celebrations of LGBTQ+ is an attempt to defy the bigotry and hatred used against the community.



Q: WHY IS IT CELEBRATED IN JUNE?

June was chosen to commemorate the Stonewall riots. On June 28, 1969, New York Police raided a gay bar, known as the Stonewall Inn. The scene eventually exploded into a full-blown riot, with subsequent protests that lasted for five more days. This event is considered a "tipping point" for the LGBTQ+ liberation movement.



Q: WHO IS BRENDA HOWARD?

Brenda Howard is known as the mother of pride for coordinating the first LGBTQ+ Pride march in 1970 to commemorate the first anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Howard also originated the idea for a week-long series of events around Pride Day which became the genesis of the annual LGBTQ+ Pride festive celebrations.



Q: HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

LGBTQ+ Pride Month events draw millions of participants worldwide every year. These month-long celebrations usually include pride parades, marches, parties, concerts/shows and rallies across the world. Memorials are often held for members of the LGBTQ+ community who have lost their lives to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS.

LGBTI Legal Service pay our deepest respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ Sistersgirls & Brotherboys community and recognise the ongoing battle for visibility and inclusivity.

We pay respect to Elders past present and emerging. We acknowledge the wisdom, strength and truth telling of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In the spirit of reconciliation, we are committed to fostering a culture of shared knowledge and learnings with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing justice.



WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT: EMILE MCPHEE



We are excited to introduce our new President, Emile McPhee.

Emile has been an integral part of our Management Committee since 2011. In addition to his extensive knowledge and experience in finance and property law, Emile displays a strong passion for supporting the LGBTI community and providing access to justice for all.

Our former (and long standing) President, Matilda Alexander, has taken on a new role for the Service, as our inaugural Patron. We are excited to continue to work with Matilda and have the benefit of her dedication, enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge and experience.

Welcome Emile, your dedication and passion for the service and the LGBTI Community is honorable and inspiring. We look forward to continuing to have your knowledge, passion and involvement with the service as President.

EMILE'S FAVOURITE QUOTE:

"This is my family. I found it, all on my own. It is little and broken, but still good. Yeah, still good."

- Lilo and Stitch

GET TO KNOW EMILE!

Emile commenced volunteering with the LGBTI Legal Service in 2011 and became a member of the Management Committee, as Executive Director in 2013. At this time, the Service was a not for profit, unfunded community-based legal service.

As Executive Director, Emile essentially was the CEO of the Legal Service. He was responsible for overseeing all activities of the service, from operating legal advice clinics, preparing submissions on law reform and creating community legal education material.

After receiving funding for the first time on 1 July 2017, the Legal Service appointed a full-time solicitor to administer the Legal Service. Consequently, Emile relinquished the role of Executive Director and was then appointed as Vice President, a role which he continued to hold until he was voted in as President recently.

Emile has undertaken these duties on behalf of the Service while employed full-time in private practice at McCullough Robertson, where he is actively involved in LGBTI and pro bono activities. In his spare time, Emile enjoys reading, puzzling with friends, brunching with his husband, Peter, and playing with his dog, Sprout.

Stay tuned for more "get to know me's" as we shed light on inspirational individuals that help run our Service!

*This is
Sprout*



FALSELY ACCUSED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM'S 7 MONTH WAIT FOR JUSTICE

CASE STUDY: BRYCE*

The LGBTI Legal Service recently advocated on behalf of Bryce*, who was the Respondent in an Application for a Protection Order submitted by the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Bryce's ex-partner, Michael*, was included as the Aggrieved (the person deemed to be in need of protection) in the Police Application.

The Police Application against Bryce was the result of Michael attending a Police station claiming to have been injured by Bryce. That evening two Police Officers attended Bryce and Michael's home to serve Bryce the Application they had made against him. Bryce was confused about why the two Police Officers were there as Bryce, that morning, was the victim of both verbal and physical violence at the hands of Michael. Bryce was told that he had to attend Court in a week and decide whether to agree to an order being made against him or to contest the application.

Bryce was understandably distressed at the prospect of having to go to Court given he was the victim of a domestic violence incident.

Our Service, together with one of our pro bono barristers, made submissions both verbally, and in writing, to the Police Prosecutor outlining that it was not necessary nor desirable for a Protection Order to be made against Bryce.

The submissions were ultimately accepted by the Prosecutor who, less than 3 days prior to the Trial, withdrew the application for a protection order. The Magistrate then dismissed the application and the Temporary Protection Order against Bryce which 'protected' Michael.

Further, a Final Protection Order was made against Michael protecting Bryce for a period of 5 years. From the date the Police Application was made naming Bryce as the Respondent, to the date it was dismissed by the Court, was more than 7 months of emotional and financial stress and anxiety for Bryce.

This is not the first time that our Service has been involved in a matter where at the 11th hour Police Prosecutions have indicated that they will either withdraw an application or offer no evidence at the Trial.

Such circumstances are very stressful for the person and their close supports in the period leading up to the Trial, only to be informed that there is 'no case to answer' in the days prior.

The Service continues to work closely with organisations including QPS to ensure that their officers have a thorough and informed understanding of issues faced by the LGBTI community. Such work by our Service strives to ensure that each organisation's understanding of the community's needs is ever evolving and continually improves.

**Not the client's or his ex-partner's real name*



Domestic and family violence hotlines:

DVConnect Womensline - 1800 811 811

24hrs, 7 days

DVConnect Mensline - 1800 600 636

9am - Midnight, 7 days

Sexual Assault Helpline - 1800 737 732

24hrs, 7days

LAW REFORM UPDATE

The LGBTI Legal Service is always actively involved in law reform. We are currently preparing submissions in response to two important reviews of Queensland's laws. The first is a review of the State's vilification laws. The second being a review of the Queensland laws which relate, relevantly for our community, to the registration of birth and death certificates (Births, Deaths & Marriages Reform)

VILIFICATION REFORM

The Service's submissions with respect to the vilification laws, which are required prior to 12 July 2021, are primarily focused on:

- Expanding the protected attributes referred to in the Anti-Discrimination Act to specifically refer to, for example, a person's HIV/AIDS status, sexual orientation, sexual characteristics and sexual expression;
- Strengthening the definition of public act, to specifically refer to acts which are done other than in private including social media posts, any conduct including actions and gestures observable by the public; and

- Amendments to establishing reasonableness to consider the harm the person has experienced as a result of the public act.

REGISTRATION

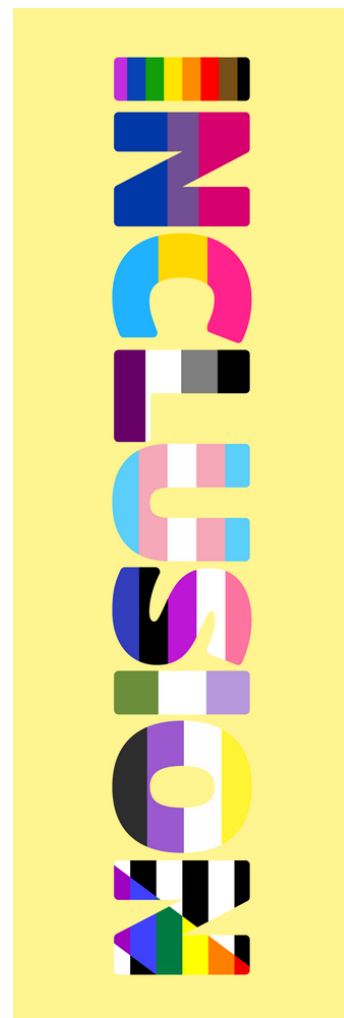
CERTIFICATES REFORM

As to the review of the registration of laws relating to births and deaths, the Service sent a submission to the Attorney General on 24 February 2021 and is continuing to be engaged in a collaborative process with respect to the necessary reforms with ally organisations including Equality Australia.

The Service will also actively participate in other reviews of the State's (and where necessary Federal) laws planned for 2021 and 2022, including a broader review of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 and those related to religious freedoms.

Should you or someone you know wish to make a submission as part of the reviews, please do not hesitate to contact the Service or visit the Queensland Human Rights Commission law reform section of their website here:

<https://www.qhrc.qld.gov.au/law-reform>



Goodbye Eden *We will miss you!*

Eden has been our amazing administrative assistant for the past 6 months. Unfortunately, she is leaving us to chase her dreams in Wellington, New Zealand. Eden recently graduated from university where she studied to be a paramedic. She has recently accepted a full-time paramedic position in Wellington. The whole service thanks Eden for all her hard work and dedication to the Legal Service. We will miss her bubbly personality and her down to earth vibe in the office. Good luck, Eden! We wish you the best!

Follow us on social media to keep updated on news and upcoming events



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LGBTI Community Legal Service



@LGBTILegal