



Action Group meeting

The Action Group continues to work and lobby for safe and inclusive education for all LGBTIQ+ students in Queensland. In this newsletter you can read about the progress that is now occurring within Queensland Education Department.

We are working to support transgender children in a number of ways, to ensure they suffer no discrimination from the system, from teaching staff or other children while at school.

We hope to engage universities in Queensland, both with regard to teacher training and current research into LGBTI issues.

If you would like to know more about anything in this newsletter or would like to become more involved in the work we do, please contact us.

The next meeting of the Action Group is 10am Monday 25 July in Brisbane. If you would like to attend please get in touch.

Queensland Education Department

The Action Group had another meeting with the Department of Education last month and received welcome news about their [Inclusion program](#). There are now eight inclusion coach positions across the state, with one coach position located in each of the seven regions and one coach position located in central office.

“The role of inclusion coaches is to provide leadership and direction to strengthen the capacity of Queensland state schools by providing a key point of contact for support and advice to principals, school leaders and regional staff about evidence-based inclusive practices focussed on improving the educational outcomes of all students.”

It sounds good and let's hope this initiative educates school principals across Queensland in providing safe and inclusive schools for all LGBTIQ students.

Transgender children and enrolment at school

The Action Group has received some very welcome news in a letter from the Minister for Education: “Where a student's name and gender has been legally changed and documentation (such as passport, Centrelink or Medicare details, re-issued birth certificate, or Change of Name Certificate issued by Births, Deaths and Marriages) is provided to the school to support this, then the student's record in OneSchool can be updated with their new details and the student's previous name and previous gender would not remain on the system.”

We have been told by the Education Department that this is possible NOW.

This is a very welcome change that meets the needs of transgender children and recognises the importance of their safety and wellbeing while they are in the care of their school.

Research

The Action Group believes that Queensland needs a university program of research to support sexuality and gender diversity in education, similar to the unit at Latrobe University. The Action Group has an enthusiastic university researcher among its members and she is working on developing links between university researchers and the Department of Education to enhance research that supports LGBTIQ students and families in Queensland.

Registering changes to birth certificates

There are an increasing number of young children diagnosed as gender dysphoric and identifying as transgender. These children are socially transitioning during their school years and are currently able to change their name on their birth certificate to reflect their affirmed gender. However, they cannot register their change in gender as current legislation in Queensland states they must be over eighteen and have had sex reassignment surgery.

The Action Group has written to the Queensland Attorney General about this and been told it is not a current priority of government. This conflicts with the [Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender](#) that recognise individuals may identify as a gender other than the sex they were assigned at birth, or may not identify as exclusively male or female, and that this should be reflected in records held by the government.

The Action Group is planning to collaborate with other groups and organisations to seek changes to the legislation allowing transgender and intersex people to decide themselves how their gender is recorded on their birth certificate.

Safe Schools Coalition Queensland

Casey Northam from Safe Schools Coalition Queensland has sent us the following update:

“We continue to work with schools across Queensland, via principals and P&C structures. Given recent media we recognise that the wellbeing of LGBTIQ communities are a priority, and we encourage people to support each other and offer referrals to support agencies where relevant. This context highlights the need for additional funds and resources to support LGBTI children and young people both inside and outside of school settings. We have a new email address for referrals - safe.schools@true.org.au. Thank you for your ongoing support.”

The Department of Education has told us that about 1/10 of Queensland schools are receiving assistance from Safe Schools Coalition. The department is also training their senior guidance councillors across the state in support for LGBTIQ children. We have asked the Department about funding for Safe Schools after the current national funding ends in June 2017 and have been assured that the inclusion and safety of LGBTIQ

Does your workplace support LGBTIQ+ staff?

Does your workplace openly support your LGBTI colleagues?

Queensland Police have a [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex \(LGBTI\) Support Network](#) that embraces, encourages and supports the diversity of its officers.

The Action Group has approached Queensland Education Department to discuss their [workplace diversity and equity program](#). We hope to encourage them to include their staff who are sexuality or gender diverse.

Please share this newsletter with your family, friends and work colleagues.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact:

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