



University of  
Southern  
Queensland

# Ally Network Newsletter

Issue #54 October 2022

[LGBTIQ community - University of Southern Queensland \(unisq.edu.au\)](https://unisq.edu.au)

Dear Allies,

Welcome to the last Ally newsletter of 2022. And what a busy year we have had! UniSQ has recently announced that it has updated its Staff Directory profile and email signature so staff can now share their preferred pronouns signalling respect and safety for all genders and gender expressions at UniSQ. Also, if you are not aware you can use 'Mx' as a prefix within our PeopleSoft system and student management system.

For those of you who are not aware we are currently updating our Ally logo and merchandise, many thanks to all of you who have provided feedback. We are looking forward to rolling this out so watch this space for the new promotional items we will have available for you over the coming months early into next year.

Please remember that we are always on the lookout for interesting articles, information about events, and professional development opportunities to include in the Ally newsletter. Please email [Ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:Ally@usq.edu.au) to share your points of interest.

## Ally Network Natter



We are delighted to be able to announce that Bonnie Hart will be our next Ally Natter speaker, which is taking place on **Intersex Day, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022**. Many of you will remember hearing from Bonnie who shared her story of Intersex during our Ally Training. Here is some more information about Bonnie and her work in this space:

Bonnie Hart BBehSc (Hons-Psych) is an intersex woman, peer worker, systemic advocate, content expert and mental health worker. With 16 years experience working within the intersex community as a peer supporter, she uses her lived experience to advocate for legislative protections and improved, affirmative, rights-based health and mental health services. Bonnie has developed a public profile as a leader within the intersex community, and is an original signatory of the [Darlington Statement](#), an Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australian intersex community consensus statement.

Further details will be posted on our [website](#) soon.



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## News



### Closure of UK gender clinic does not mean change needed in Australia

The treatment of children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria is back in the news following the closure of a prominent gender clinic in the UK. This has led to much commentary about how to best help transgender youth, and whether this will affect how gender clinics operate in Australia. [\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

### ‘Please lean in with a bit of empathy’: it’s not easy being trans in rural Australia

Dr Rachel Richardson speaks with the kind of gravitas you’d expect from a lifetime working in education, yet she maintains an eloquent outrage about the shortfall in services for trans, gender-diverse and non-binary (TGDNB) people in rural Australia. [\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)



### Safe Connections Toowoomba: Connecting and Supporting LGBTQIA+ Communities

UniSQ in collaboration with Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Queensland is proud to release the “Safe Connections Toowoomba: Connecting and Supporting LGBTQIA+ Communities” report.

Thank you to all UniSQ Allies who contributed to this report!

Please find a copy of the report [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)



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### Wear it Purple, 26th August 2022

Here are some photos from Wear it Purple Day at the campuses



The **Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers** was again a great celebration of colour, and people coming together. A highlight is always the parade and again for the second year a Pride float entered and sparkled its way through the streets of Toowoomba. Many thanks to the many members of the LGBTIQ+ community, Allies and volunteers who put together a wonderful float that was outstanding. What a giant mirror ball as a fabulous centrepiece. Congratulations MOSIAC!

(Photo right - Student Welfare Advisor Sharyn with UniSQ student Paz)



### MATE Bystander Intervention Workshop

**LOCATION: Toowoomba Campus**

**DATE: 11 October 2022**

**TIME: 10am-2pm**

**RSVP: 07 4631 2372 or  
student.success@usq.edu.au**

**MATE Bystander Intervention Workshop**

Facilitated by USQ Student Wellbeing

MATE aims to empower bystanders to be someone who does something. To engage every person—regardless of their position, title or level of authority—in a conversation about personal leadership, positive change and violence prevention.

The course will take you on a journey through the prevention of violence against women by looking at the main driver—gender inequality. Learn the bystander intervention framework and practical skills so you can be an active bystander in the prevention of gender-based violence, discover your personal leadership and how to promote gender equality.

**Workshop**

✓ Toowoomba Campus 10am - 2pm Tuesday 11.10.22

Free for all UniSQ Students

RSVPs essential 07 4631 2372 student.success@usq.edu.au



**International Coming out day -** [International Coming Out Day](#) | [For government](#) | [Queensland Government](#)



**11th Oct 2022**

National Coming Out Day is a date for the LGBTIQ+ community here in Queensland to be celebrated for who they are by their friends, family and work colleagues. The day supports recognition, normalisation, pride and inclusion for those in the LGBTIQ+ community.

**Asexual Awareness Week -** [Ace Week 2022: October 23-29](#)

**23rd Oct 2022**

Asexual Awareness Week runs annually in the last full week of October and helps to educate and give voice to the often overlooked and misunderstood 'A' in LGBTQIA+.



**Intersex Awareness Day -** [Intersex Human Rights Australia – Intersex Australia – formerly OII Australia \(ihra.org.au\)](#)



**26th Oct 2022**

Intersex awareness day is designed to highlight the challenges and human rights issues facing intersex people globally, and to encourage visibility, education and inclusion.



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## SafeZone App

Safety is important for all of us. SafeZone is a free app that connects you directly with the University's Campus Security team or Emergency Services. SafeZone is available free for all staff and students. This is a safety app for your phone which allows you to request assistance from UniSQ Campus Security easily and discreetly. Download it and log in with your uni email address! visit [usq.edu.au/safezone](https://usq.edu.au/safezone) **MORE**



## LGBTIQA+ resources and referrals

Please remember that the UniSQ Ally Network keeps a list of LGBTIQ resources and referrals available for download on the Ally website. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the downloadable list. This is a useful tool for you when supporting those who identify or who have people close to them who identify.

For support, please contact

- UniSQ Students can access free confidential counselling
- UniSQ Staff can access EAP
- LGBTIQA+ specialised support at <https://qlife.org.au/>
- For anyone experiencing violence in their family or relationship **1800 Respect 1800 737 732**

If you have any questions or concerns, please email: [Ally@usq.edu.au](mailto:Ally@usq.edu.au)

Kind regards,

**UniSQ Ally Network**

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