

Dear Members and Friends,

Warm regards,

Philippa Moss
Acting Executive Director

AGA HAPPENIN GS



August 2017

Welcome to the new AGA House

As most of you will know by now, we have a new AGA House! While it was a little sad saying goodbye to the old AGA House, I think our new space offers us so many opportunities that I am really excited to explore with you all.

So far, we have held a number of events at the new AGA House. It was especially great, and meaningful, to have our disabilities discussion night in our now accessible space. I would also like to say a big thank you to all those that came to the discussion night and shared their experiences. It was great to be able to have a space where people felt so comfortable to engage in meaningful discussion.

It has been lovely to be able to introduce all our groups to the space progressively. Drop-in has really grown in the new house, which is fantastic to see. We have also had our first writing group, art group, youth group and Intersex group as well as our first Community Dinner in the space.

We have also held a special event for Wear It Purple Day on the 25th of August. I would like to say a huge thank you to Helena for organising this event while I was on placement for uni. Read more about this great event later in Happenings.

There have clearly been some obstacles in the path of the move, including the break-in. I am so happy, and proud, about how we have overcome these barriers throughout the move as a community. Our Members have played a big role in keeping the morale of AGA up as staff have been working on the logistics of the move. Thank you so much for continuing to participate in all our events during what has been a time of great change.

I hope to see you all at the new AGA House over the coming months,

**Majka McLean-Engstrom – Community Engagement
Coordinator**



What's Been On at AGA

Our Families' Dinners have really been growing over the last couple of months! In April, we had a lot of families and kids. We had so many kids that we had to set up a Lego and colouring in station in the hallway! The discussions in our Families' group really varies, this month we discussed topics such as school camp and coming out to other family members and family friends, as well as the order of the colours in the rainbow. It's great to see so many new, and familiar, faces every month!

Every month, we also have an art workshop facilitated by Ziggy, one of our lovely members, during drop-in. At our last workshop, we were all challenged to draw various items without looking at the paper. It was a great time for everyone! The next workshop will be happening during drop-in on April 26th.

Contact Us

A Gender Agenda

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Message from Helena

Hi folks!

I've come onboard at AGA recently as Community Engagement Project Officer. I'll be supporting Majka with some of their workload as well as working on a few other projects over the next few months. I bring pretty varied experience to the job, having worked across a number of fields; Community Development, Government, Outdoor Education and the Arts. I've done everything from delivering the Safe Schools Coalition up in QLD to running arts projects with LGBTIQ communities on the outskirts of Melbourne. A common thread through all of my work has been celebrating diversity and supporting inclusion, so I feel like I'm a pretty good fit here at AGA.

Discoveries from my first two weeks (having just moved from QLD):

- Canberra is a lot cooler than Brisbane, but don't put your heater on until ANZAC day!
- Drop in sessions are a lovely way to get to know the community.
- When in doubt, ask Majka!
- AGA House has the best back steps to sit on for a morning cuppa.
- It's perfectly normal to see kangaroos hopping down the street. Don't be alarmed.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks!

Cheers,

Casey

(They/them/theirs pronouns)

Wear It Purple Day: Speed Date a Service

AGA recently hosted the launch of a new publication from the ACT Human Rights Commission, “Everyone Can Play: guidelines for local clubs on best practice for inclusion of transgender and intersex participants”. The launch was held on 6 April with some speakers over lunch in the sunny backyard at AGA House. Speakers were Jake Blight (Chair of AGA), Karen Toohey (Discrimination Commissioner), Peter Hyndal (who worked with the Commission to draft the guidelines) and Matt Warren from Varsity Derby League (who spoke about roller derby and its approach to inclusion).

The guidelines aim to support local sports that want to be more inclusive by providing practical guidance, information about legal rights and obligations, and addressing some myths. The Commission hopes that the guidelines will give sports the information and encouragement they need to aim for ‘best practice’ inclusion, rather than focus on complying with legal obligations or a misconceived need to comply with elite level restrictions around participation.

Many sports (including basketball, softball, touch football, tennis, triathlon, soccer and cricket) were represented at the launch, which shows the level of interest locally in improving practice and welcoming new participants. Now that the guidelines have been released, the Commission plans to work with interested clubs on implementing more inclusive practice, and to help build links between people interested in participating and their local clubs.

This is the first time that guidelines like these have been released in the ACT, and it’s exciting to see the level of interest they have attracted already. The Commission acknowledges this is a learning process and expects that work with clubs and players over the next 12-18 months to put the guidelines into practice will provide lots of opportunities to improve the resource and any further work done in this area.

You can download “Everyone Can Play” from the ACT Human Rights Commission website at <http://hrc.act.gov.au/> or get a hard copy by calling 6205 2222.

Date	Event
Tues 5 Sept, 5:30pm-8:00pm	Families’ Dinner. Meet up with other parents of transgender, intersex and gender diverse people. Kids welcome. Dinner provided.
Thurs 7 Sept, 5:30pm-7:30pm	Meet up with other partners of transgender, intersex and gender diverse people. Dinner provided.
Fri 8 Sept, 5:00pm-6:30pm	Do you have a story to tell? Want some writing tips? Share ideas and get creative. No experience required.
Tues 12 Sept, 5:30pm-7:00pm	‘Diversity and safety within our communities’ discussion night. How can we support diversity and create safety in our community for all? All welcome!
Fri 15 Sept, 6:00pm-8:00pm	‘Queer by Design’ youth group. Come along and ‘design’ the perfect outfit in the lead up to the Prom. We’ll also be making some postcards for the zine.
Tues 19 Sept, 6:30pm-7:30pm	AGA Board Info Session. Meet the AGA Board members. Perhaps you’re interested in joining the Board or a working group? Find out what is involved, all welcome!
Wed 20 Sept, 4:30pm-6:30pm	Art Group (part of drop-in). Have fun getting crafty! Please bring along some magazines/pictures to create a collage. All welcome, no experience required.
Fri 22 Sept, 6:00pm-8:00pm	Non-Binary Night Out. Meet with other non-binary, gender queer/fluid, agender and gender non-conforming people. RSVP required for dinner out, contact for venue
Thus 28 th Sept, 5:00pm-6:30pm	Meet for tea and chats. This month is only for people who have lived experience with intersex variations.
Sat 30 Sept, 6:00pm-9:00pm	Community Dinner. Meet with friends and share a meal Dinner provided. All welcome.

What’s On at AGA

AGA Out & About

Gugan Gulwan Youth Day

As part of celebrations for National Youth Week, Casey and Majka attended the youth day at Gugan Gulwan. It was great to be able to have a stall at the day where we provided lots of information about AGA and the way people can get involved.

Launch : ACT Human Rights Commission's "Everyone Can Play: Guidelines for Local Clubs on Best Practice Inclusion of Transgender and Intersex Participants"

AGA hosted this launch at AGA House. It was great to see so many sports clubs turn up for the launch of the guidelines that were developed by the ACT HR, but also get to know a bit more about AGA. We are hoping to extend our partnerships in the sporting area in the future!

People with Disability ACT

AGA recently met with People with Disability ACT to discuss how we might possibly collaborate. Stay tuned.
