

Dear Members and Friends,

It's certainly been a busy time since I've been back from my holiday a month ago! (holiday? What holiday?!) I'd like to thank Rebecca for holding the fort while I was away!

We are just in the process of finalising our Annual Report and Strategic Plan and it's been a good time to look back on the past year and what we have achieved.

Due to increased funding, a stable Board, and an increasingly engaged community, AGA is now a stronger, more sustainable organisation than it was when I began at AGA full-time in January this year. For an organisation with miniscule staffing of 1.6 EFT this is an incredible achievement. We would not have achieved this without the support of the community, our hard-working Board and partnerships. As we all know, there is still a long way to go before people in our communities can live without barriers or fear of discrimination but AGA is now in a good position to keep being part of the solution.

I invite everyone to come along to our **AGM on 26 November at 5.00pm** to hear about our work over the year but also to gather to have a great picnic, hear Heya play, and have some fun together.

Speaking of reflection, we also have our **Trans Day of Remembrance event on Sunday, 20 November, 2016 at 3.30pm**. Peter Hyndal will be facilitating a discussion on the meaning of this day. Please come along.

In other news we have appointed not one but two people to fill our Policy, Training and Education Manager role. We are really pleased to welcome Robby Evans and Tim Kefford (who will work short term as our Education & Training advisor) to our small team. Tim and Robbie have fantastic complementary skills. Please see page 2 for their introductions.

Stay safe everyone and I hope to see you very soon.

Tania Phillips

AGA HAPPENINGS



November 2016

Reflections

As we come to towards the end of the year, it is important for us to step back and reflect on AGA's work over the last year. For me, December will also mark a year of my working at AGA. I can confidently say that we have come a long way in quite a short period of time!

I thought one way of showing what we've been up to at AGA House was to give you a brief run down of how many programs we have run. We have run an enormous number of community programs including: 10 Community Dinners, 6 Family events, 10 Youth Groups, 5 workshops, 6 special events and too many drop-in sessions to count. That's a huge achievement for our small organisation! I would like to thank all those who have helped out throughout the year; peeling veggies for dinner, teaching others arts and crafts, cleaning out cupboards and washing dishes have all made my life easier and less stressful.

One of my favourite things about working at AGA is seeing everyone interacting with each other. Particular moments that come to mind are: teams playing Scatergories, people working together to create art, quiet conversations checking in with each other, and the sharing of stories. More than anything, I really feel the community of AGA is alive and well at all our events.

Over the last year, we have also expanded our programs, meaning that there are more opportunities to engage with AGA. We have started a regular Families Dinner and we have added a regular Over 50s group to our calendar and our Youth Group has also expanded. These groups allow us to cater more specifically to some of our growing communities, which is very important in providing social support and understanding the issues faced by these groups. We have also held a number of special events this year, to celebrate days like IDAHOT, Wear It Purple and Intersex Awareness Day. All these events have been fantastic and allowed our community to get together to celebrate important days.

As we look to the next year, I hope that we continue to grow and develop, learn from each other and keep the AGA community bustling.

Majka McLean-Engstrom – Community Engagement Coordinator



Contact Us

A Gender Agenda

67 Ebdon Street, Ainslie, ACT, 2602

PO Box 4010, Ainslie, ACT, 2602

(02) 6162 1924

support@genderrights.org.au

www.genderrights.org.au

Introducing Our New Staff!

Robbie Evans: Policy, Education & Training Manager

Hello members. I'm a single parent looking after my four young children (two girls and two boys aged 11, 9, 6 and 4 years). I am very excited to begin working as the Policy, Education and Training Manager at AGA. Given the nature of the work performed by AGA, and the community it serves, I should state one of the reasons I am passionate about taking on this role is that I am acutely aware of some of the many issues facing the gender-diverse community. I have experienced them first hand as a person with lived experience.

I feel my experience and skills as a police officer and legal practitioner in various State and Commonwealth departments and agencies as well as my work preparing many submissions and policy documents for parliamentary committees, ministers and government will be put to great use for AGA. My career has included, education and training in the legal field, working as the Official Solicitor to the

Crime and Misconduct Commission (Qld) and working in Solomon Islands training and building capacity of prosecutors. I hope to make a positive contribution to the very important work undertaken by AGA and look forward to meeting everyone soon

Tim Kefford: Education & Training Advisor

Hello everyone. I'm very excited to be working with AGA! I have had over 10 years of experience working and volunteering in social justice issues including refugee rights, homeless rights and other marginalised communities. Before joining the AGA family, I had the fantastic experience of founding and launching my own community and campaigning business. Through that I have developed a passion for business best practice, training and innovation together with a strong belief in change through the power of clear and effective communication. I look forward to meeting all of you over the coming weeks and months and working together to continue to make AGA a strong and vibrant community achieving effective and long lasting change

What's On at AGA

We have a new calendar of events to welcome in the summer months! The calendar includes all our usual events of drop-in, Community Dinners, Family Dinners and Youth Group as well as our new Over 50s group and a number of special events. It's going to be a jam packed couple of months at AGA!

Towards the end of October, we celebrated Intersex Awareness Day with a lunch and speaker session. Belinda Barnard, from the ACT Human Rights Commission, came to speak to us about the ways that intersex status is protected by the ACT Human Rights Framework and what to do if you experience discrimination based on intersex status. Heidi Yates, from Legal Aid ACT, then spoke about the ability to change gender markers on ACT birth certificates to a non-specified gender as well as about how we can continue to improve ACT legislation to better represent and protect those with an intersex status. It was fantastic to see so many people attend the session and to hear the conversations and questions throughout the event.

Coming Up at AGA

Date	Event
Thurs Nov 17, 2:00pm-4:00pm	Over 50s Baking and Tea afternoon. Come along to make some scones and share them over a cup of tea at AGA House.
Fri Nov 18, 6:00pm-8:00pm	Youth Group Relaxed Dinner. Catch up over a relaxed dinner at AGA House.
Sat 19 Nov, 1:00pm-5:00pm	Equine Adventures. Meet at Peakgrove Equine Assisted Therapy for a 1:00pm start for a day with the horses. RSVP required, email Majka to express interested in attending.
Sun 20 Nov, 3:30pm-5:30pm	Trans Day of Remembrance. Drop by AGA for support and a reflective discussion with Peter Hyndal on this important day for our community.
Sat Nov 26, 5:00pm-9:00pm	AGM and Community Dinner. Have a say in the direction of AGA for the next year, then catch up with friends over a meal at AGA House.
Sun 27 th , 3:00pm-5:00pm	A meet up for masculine identifying people at Civic Pub (over 18 ^s event). Look out for the AGA sign on a pool table towards to back of the pub.
Fri Dec 2, 6:00pm-8:00pm	Youth Group Tie Dying evening. Bring along a white piece of clothing to tie dye and get ready to be a bit messy.
Sat Dec 3, 1:00pm-4:00pm	End of year picnic at Black Mountain Peninsula. Bring along a picnic blanket, kids welcome.

AGA in the Wider Community

University of Canberra Post-Graduate Counselling Students:

Majka attended and spoke at a lecture for post-graduate counselling students at the University of Canberra. The talk included an introduction to gender and sex as well as information about the issues that our community regularly faces. There were opportunities for students to ask questions to better their understanding and also to question their own thinking and practices. This was a great opportunity for AGA to work with students in their academic development.

LGBTIQ and Allies Youth Prom:

AGA, along with a number of other community services, was involved in the organisation of the LGBTIQ and Allies Youth Prom held at the end of Mental Health Week. The Prom had over 70 attendees, and thanks to community support, all the young people were able to attend free of charge. From all accounts, it was a great event!

Fair Day 2016:

AGA had a great day at Fair Day 2016, to launch Canberra's Spring Out Pride Festival. It was great to see so many faces, both familiar and new. Events like Fair Day are great opportunities for AGA to engage with the wider LGBTIQ community and the wider Canberra community in general.

AGA Open Day: On 10 November, we invited services and members of the broader community to come to AGA to learn what we were all about. We were very pleased with the turn out and 10 people from 8 difference services ranging from indigenous to employment organisations came along to hear about the work of AGA. We look forward to working with a number of those organisations in the future. We also welcomed a number of new families who came along to find out about AGA

Wider Community Events

World AIDS Day Picnic

The AIDS Action Council will be hosting a picnic on Aspen Island on December 1st, from 6:00pm. The picnic will celebrate World AIDS Day, a day to raise awareness of issues surrounding HIV, demonstrate support for those living with and impacted by HIV and to remember those who have passed away. The picnic will conclude with watching the Carillion and Kings Avenue Overpass being turned Red to mark the occasion.

In The Turn Film Screening

Varsity Derby League is Canberra's gender inclusive roller derby league. On November 17th, from 6:00pm at the National Library, they will be showing the film 'In The Turn'. The film is about a 10 year old transgender girl in Canada, her journey to be herself and how she finds acceptance in roller derby. Tickets are \$15 (\$5 for under 12s with a fee paying adult) and are available at the door. This is a SpringOut event.

All Genders Masked Ball

This event is part of SpringOut and is welcoming of anyone who would like to go. You are encouraged to wear whatever you feel like/feel most comfortable in. The event will be held on Saturday 19th November from 7:00pm at 16West. Entry by gold coin donation.