

I've been away from AGA for a couple of weeks, and it is so great to have come back to such a bustling place!

Drop-in has been so busy, and it has been lovely to see some new faces. The same goes for our Families' and Community Dinners. There is something special about sharing a meal and having a chat in a safe space like AGA. Thank you to all those who have been coming to events, it makes me feel warm and fuzzy seeing you all engaging with AGA and with each other!

As some may already know, AGA is about to go through a time of lots of changes, including moving to a new location, and getting new staff (read more about this in other areas of 'Happenings'). Change of any kind, even positive like these changes will be, can be hard. We're really excited about the opportunities these changes offer, but know that there will undoubtedly be some bumps along the way that we haven't seen yet. During this time, I hope that you are all able to ride the wave with us, and help us settle into our new location and make new staff feel welcome.

Thank you so much to Helena who has been filling in for me while I've been on leave. You have done such a terrific job with the new calendar and covering all our events! Thank you also to everyone who has made Helena feel welcome in our AGA family. I'm really looking forward to taking some events together over the coming months.

Keep reading to get some information about everything new at AGA!

Majka McLean-Engstrom
Community Engagement
Coordinator

AGA HAPPENING S



July 2017

New(s)

Dear Members and Friends

It seems quite some time since our last Happenings but so much has been “happening”! Firstly, most of our programs are bursting at the seams which is so good to see. Lots of new people and some people returning to AGA after time away. Welcome to everyone!

New Premises! As many people know, we have been searching for a new premises for quite some time. This was due to our lease expiring at the current property. We have been really fortunate in finding a property not too far away in North Lyneham! Great news is, that's the property is stand alone; has a number of bus services close by; has disability access and accessible toilets as well as a dedicated car park. It is a little smaller than we might have wanted but we will make it work! The property has been renovated and is clean, bright and fresh! When we have the lease signed we will release full details and also let you know about plans for our relocation and for our big “Official” opening! In the meantime, programs will go as usual.

New AGA Funding Officially Announced: Sam (AGA Board member) and myself attended the official ACT Budget Launch a few weeks ago. It was extremely gratifying to see AGA's name and capacity-building funding in black and white print in the Budget Papers. This will enable us to consolidate AGA's work as well as build for a sustainable future. We are greatly appreciative of the support of the ACT Government at this time of growth and fresh direction.

New Staffing! Due to our enhanced funding, AGA will be recruiting in the next few months! We will have a number of positions available so watch this space!

We are also excited to announce that AGA (with support from the LGBTI Consortium) is hoping to engage a part-time Intersex Project Worker in the near future.

In other news, AGA has been involved in so much other great work! Law Reform (watch this space for some exciting news!), Education and Training

and Inclusive Schools Program have been among our key focusses.



There is so much good news for AGA! I'd like to thank our Board, staff but most of all our amazing community for making AGA one of the most dynamic community organisations in the ACT! I'm also aware that sometimes a lot of change can be a little unsettling. We will endeavor to make these changes as smoothly as possible. We are so looking forward to our very bright future!

Contact Us

A Gender Agenda

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nail painting, arts and crafts, aged care and languages, to name only a few topics.

Tania Phillips – Executive Director

What's Been On at AGA

Helena will be writing this section The past couple of months have seen some great programs run out of AGA House, but what I've enjoyed the most are the conversations we've had at drop-in, Community Dinners and Families' Dinners. I always enjoy hearing the stories of people in our community, and it has been great to be able to get to know you a little better. Over the past months, I've learnt about various animals (though my favourite is still the bombardier beetle),

Coming Up at AGA

Our new calendar is out! If you have not been able to have a look yet, it's got a great mix of events for everyone in our community. We've got all our regular events: Drop-In, Families' Dinners, Writing Group, Community Dinners, Youth Group and Discussion Nights! As well as that we've got Intersex Meet-Ups, a Partners' Dinner once every two months, an Art Group and a bunch of other special events.

In October, we're going to be making a zine of positive stories about our community! We'll be running workshops about journalism and creative writing, as well as doing small activities during drop-in and other events to contribute content for the zine. This is really exciting for AGA because it's a great opportunity for us to tell our own stories! Keep an eye out for

Date	Event
Tues 11 Jul, 5:30pm-7:00pm	Intersectionality Discussion Night. What is intersectionality and how is it related to our communities? Come along for a great discussion!
Fri 14 Jul, 5:00pm-6:30pm	Writing group. Come and join our monthly writing group. No experience required, just a willingness to learn. This group is professional facilitated by a local writer.
Tues 18 Jul, 10:00am-4:00pm	AGA Open Day. 10:00am-12:00pm: services only with a presentation from 11:00am. 1:00pm-4:00pm: AGA is open for any new people to come along and find out about us
Wed 19 Jul, 4:30pm-6:30pm	Art Group. Have fun getting crafty! We'll be making cardboard sculptures. All welcome, no experience required.
Thurs 20 Jul, 6:00pm-8:00pm	Girls' Night Out. Meet for dinner with other women in our community. RSVP essential. Location TBC.
Fri 21 Jul, 6:30pm-9:30pm	Youth Group Movie Night. Enjoy an evening of friends, movies and snacks at AGA House.
Thurs 27 Jul, 5:00pm-6:30pm	Meet up for tea and chats. This month's meet up is only for people who have a lived experience with intersex variations.
Sat 29 Jul, 6:00pm-10:00pm	Community Dinner and AGA Talent Show. Enjoy dinner and a community talent show! Share your act and support others! All welcome, dinner provided.

zine related activities and the launch of the zine during SpringOut!



Staff had a great meeting with a dress up theme in June! Our costumes ranged from bow ties and vests to witches hats!

AGA in the Wider Community

LGBTI Health Alliance Suicide Prevention Strategy Round Table

Majka recently attended a round table hosted by the National LGBTI Health Alliance about the new Suicide Prevention Strategy. It was great to hear from others about the ways we can work to implement the Strategy in Canberra.

“Family” Violence Safety Hub Development: AGA has been involved in assisting with co-design of a “Family Violence Safety Hub for the ACT. It is really important to have AGA’s perspective included as so often, intersex, transgender and gender diverse people are invisible in recognition of violence and systems reporting and of service delivery. We are hoping to make a difference!

“Safe & Inclusive Schools”: AGA has had significant input into the development of the new local “Safe and Inclusive Schools” program that replaces the federally funded “Safe Schools Program”. This program is vital for our young people and families in the school environment.

Professional Counselling Association of the ACT and NSW(PCA): AGA recently conducted a Professional Development Session for a dozen members of the PCA which resulted in many of the members wanting to learn more about AGA and sign up for more training!

Health Pathways for Gender Diverse People: AGA has been involved extensively in the development of a new Health Pathway for all Primary Health Care professions such as GPs, Psychologists, Nurses. The pathway is being developed by the Capital Health Network and will provide clinical and background important information for professionals who work with our communities.

Marymead Children’s Services: AGA has met with Marymead to discuss a whole of organisation approach to working with intersex, transgender and gender diverse children and families. AGA will be providing expertise and training to over 140 staff in the near future.

OneLink: OneLink provides information and access to support services in the ACT, these include housing and family services. AGA recently met with One Link to discuss how they can improve their service and better support members of our communities.

Events in the Wider Community