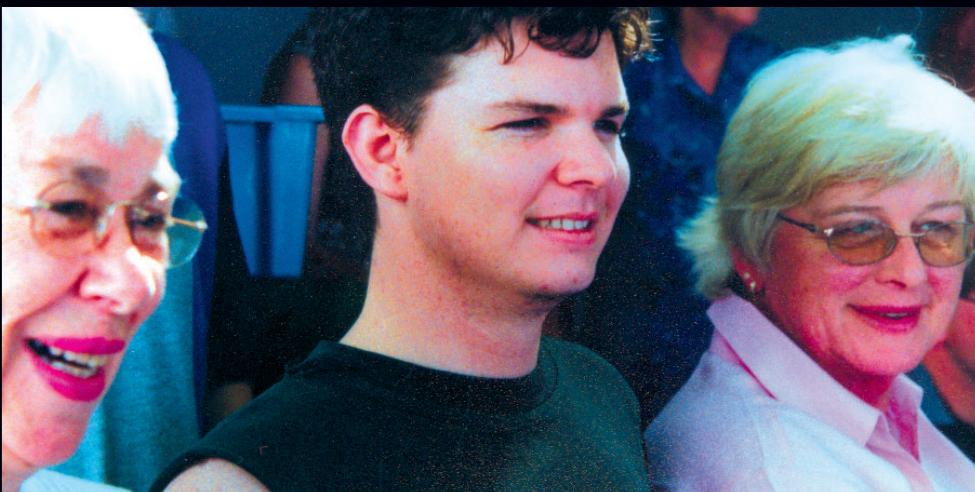


# Someone You Love



Information for Parents, Families and  
Friends of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or  
Trans\* people,



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A joint project of the Gay and Lesbian Community Service (WA) and the WA AIDS Council. Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services 'Here for Life' Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative.

*Special thanks to all the families who shared themselves through the comments and photographs in this book.*

Thanks to Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (WA), all the young people at the Freedom Centre, all the youth workers and counsellors and everyone who assisted with this book.

Produced by the 'Here for Life' Youth Sexuality Project Team: Graham Brown, Pia Coates and Melissa Gillett.

Revised and reprinted in 2004 & 2006. Revised and reprinted in 2008 by the Freedom Centre  
[www.freedom.org.au](http://www.freedom.org.au) & the WA AIDS Council  
[www.waaids.com](http://www.waaids.com)

Photography by Nadine Toussaint  
Design by Lauren Willhelm, Designmine Pty Ltd

# Someone You Love

## A letter from PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

This book has been written to assist parents, families and friends of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans\* and intersex people (GLBTI) with the sometimes difficult process of coming to terms with the changes that are taking place in the lives of the children whom they love.

It is important to remember that they are still the same children that you loved yesterday, before you learned something new about them. Most people have strong feelings about their children's sexuality and gender. Many parents go through a process similar to grief.

For the first few weeks you may find yourself crying a lot, and not knowing where to turn for help. You may feel that you are the only person who has a GLBTI child. But you are not alone, and there are organisations that can help you through these

difficult times. These include, PFLAG, The Freedom Centre, The WA AIDS Council and the Gay and Lesbian Community Service.

PFLAG has a voluntary Helpline that is staffed every day. We have a small library of books on GLBTI issues. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at Women's Health Care House, at 1.30pm. Please feel free to contact us, use the library or attend our meetings.

As a result of the 2003 changes to the legislation in this state, more

children are coming out to their parents, hence more parents are seeking support and information. You will always be welcome at our groups.

Giz Watson and Dianne Guise were a great support to us during the Parliamentary debates on the proposed changes to legislation.

We hope that reading this book will be a positive move for you towards developing a deeper understanding and support for your child or loved one.

**PFLAG WA Inc.**  
[www.pflagwa.org.au](http://www.pflagwa.org.au)  
Helpline (08) 9228 1005



**Before we get started we'd like to clarify the meaning of some of the words used in this book.**

**Heterosexual or straight :** People whose sexual and romantic feelings are primarily for the opposite sex and who identify primarily with those feelings.

**Homosexual :** People whose sexual and romantic feelings are primarily for the same sex and who identify primarily with those feelings. People who feel this way often identify as gay or lesbian.

**Gay :** People whose sexual and romantic feelings are primarily for the same sex and who identify primarily with those feelings. In Australia, both men and women identify as gay, however it often refers mainly to homosexual men.

**Gender Identity :** The label or name one uses to define and identify their gender. Our sense of our selves in regards to our gender, gender role, masculinity and/or femininity. The most common gender identities are male and female, however there are many others in the gender diverse community.

**Gender :** How a person, thinks, acts, dresses and speaks which distinguishes them as masculine or feminine.

**Intersex :** A person born with reproductive organs, genitalia, and/or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female.

**Lesbian :** Women whose sexual and romantic feelings are primarily for other women and who identify with those feelings.

**Bisexual or Bi :** Refers to people whose sexual and romantic feelings are for both men and women and who identify with these feelings. Many people may engage in bisexual behaviours but not identify as bisexual.

**Homophobia :** An individual's or society's misunderstanding, fear, ignorance of, or prejudice against gay, lesbian and/or bisexual people.

**Transgender :** An umbrella term used to describe a broad range of non-conforming gender identities and/or behaviors. Usually includes all trans\* people, but some Transsexuals and members of the gender diverse community prefer not to use this term.

**Trans\*:** An umbrella term including transsexual and transgender.

**Transsexual :** a person who identifies as the sex opposite to the one assigned at birth and who may choose to undergo sex affirmation/reassignment surgery.

**Coming Out :** This can mean something different to everyone. Coming out to yourself has to do with developing an awareness that you are LGBTQ. Coming out to others involves disclosing your LGBTQ identity.

**Sex :** the physiological make-up of a person. It is commonly expressed as a binary and used to divide people into males and females.

**Sexual Orientation :** The direction of one's sexual and romantic attractions and interests towards members of the same, opposite or both sexes, or all genders. Similar to 'Sexual Preference'.

**Sexuality :** Sexuality is a central aspect of being human throughout life and encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviours, practices, roles and relationships.

see [www.freedom.org.au](http://www.freedom.org.au) Glossary for more



## Common Questions about GLBTI People

### How many GLBTI people are there?

The number of young people who are attracted to people of the same gender is generally believed to be approximately about 10% of the population (2).

Estimates vary depending on the comfort levels of people being surveyed. That works out to be one person in every extended family. Sexual and romantic relations between people of the same gender have been found in every known culture and religion in society. It happens in every social, economic, racial, and religious group. People who feel this way are in all professions, they are our friends, our families and our colleagues. We all know a number of GLBTI people, but we may not be aware of it.

(2) Bell,A and Weinberg,M (1978) Homosexualities : A Study Of Diversity Among Men and Women. New York, Simon and Schuster.

### What Causes Someone to be gay, lesbian, trans\* or bisexual?

The answer to "what causes someone to be GLBTI is probably the same as the answer to "what causes someone to be heterosexual?" The research so far has highlighted only one thing – we do NOT know what causes anyone's sexual orientation. Gay, lesbian, trans\* and bisexual people have been raised in all kinds of homes, as have

heterosexual people. What is clear is that this is a complex, multi-faceted issue.

### Is Homosexuality natural?

Being GLBTI is as natural and as healthy as being heterosexual. For the approximately 200,000 people in Australia who are GLBTI, it is a natural part of who they are, and for them to be heterosexual would be unnatural. The vast majority of psychologists and psychiatrists consider it unethical to try to change a person's sexual orientation. (3)

(3) USA Psychiatric Association; USA Psychological Association; British Psychiatric Association

### Can you identify GLBTI people by the way they behave and dress?

GLBTI look and act so much like everyone else that most people assume they are heterosexual.

Gay, lesbian, trans\* and bisexual people, like all people, behave in all kinds of ways. Stereotypes and assumptions arise out of ignorance and prejudice. Sometimes a stereotype about a group doesn't fit anyone in that group, sometimes it fits a few people, sometimes more. But a stereotype never fits everyone in any group.

Physical appearance and mannerisms have nothing to do with a person's sexuality, they are part of their personality.

### Do GLBTI people have more sexual partners than heterosexual people?

GLBTI share the same amount of interest in sexual

activity as heterosexual people, neither more nor less.

Just like the heterosexual community, the GLBTI community has a diverse range of lifestyles and relationships.

Maintaining relationships is often more difficult for same gender couples, as society does not provide any of the supports for these relationships that it provides to heterosexual couples. No social, legal, or religious support is provided and often no family support. With the high rates of divorce amongst heterosexual marriages, it's probably amazing that so many same gender couples do stay together.

### Do lesbians really want to be men and gay men really want to be women?

The very nature of same sex relationships provides an impetus away from rigid gender roles and stereotypes. However this has nothing to do with wanting to be the opposite gender. Trans\* people often do not identify with the sex or gender they were born with. This has to do with the feeling of not being born into the right physical body.

Confusion about one's gender is a very real issue, but does not necessarily have anything to do with sexuality or sexual orientation. Being gay, lesbian or bisexual doesn't mean someone is trans\*, and being trans\* doesn't make someone gay, lesbian

or bisexual. (For more information on trans\* or gender issues, ask the organisations listed at the back of this book for referrals.)

#### ***Do gay men abuse children?***

Paedophilia and other forms of child abuse occur mainly in the home environment by a family member. 95% of child abuse is carried out by heterosexual identifying people.(4)

(4) Jenny C, Roesler T, Poyer K, (1994) "Are Children at risk for sexual abuse by homosexuals?", Pediatrics Vol 94 (1).

*In discussions covering several years, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) have discovered that:*

- people are often aware of their sexual orientation at a very early age, whether they be heterosexual or homosexual;
- none of the children were influenced or taught to be lesbian or gay by any other person;
- family fears of "catching" homosexuality or being recruited are without scientific foundation, but are generated by feelings of vulnerability, like most fears; and
- in families where homosexual children try to deny their sexuality, the ramifications can be enormous.

## **Common Questions asked by families concerning their loved ones**

### ***Why did they have to tell me?***

***"Our first response was to tell him we loved him and that nothing had changed. But in fact everything had changed. Suddenly he was a stranger." Peg***

### ***"Since my daughter has told us she's a lesbian, we have become much closer." Maureen***

Some families believe they may have been happier not knowing. They start to recall the time before they knew as "problem free", remembering an ideal situation rather than the reality.

Sometimes we can try to deny what is happening by rejecting what we're hearing ("It's just a phase; you'll get over it"); by shutting down ("If you choose that lifestyle, I don't want to hear about

it"); or by not registering the impact of what we're being told ("That's nice, dear, and what do you want for dinner?").

Parents and families may feel resentment towards their child or loved one's sexuality. This feeling is based on the belief that to be gay, lesbian, trans\* or bisexual was a conscious decision. The main decision most GLBTI people have to make is whether to be honest about who they are or hide it. Hiding it imposes a tremendous burden. A large part of their life would be kept secret from you, and you would never really know the whole person.

While people may experiment for some time with their sexuality, someone who has reached the point of telling a parent or someone close to them that they are GLBTI is not usually a person who is going through a phase. Generally they have thought long and hard to understand and acknowledge their sexual orientation.

Telling their family or someone close to them that they think they are GLBTI involves overcoming a great many negative stereotypes and often taking a great

risk, and few would take that step lightly or prematurely.

### ***Why didn't they tell us before?***

Your child or loved one has probably been thinking this through for months, even years. This does not mean a lack of trust, lack of love, neither is it a reflection on your relationship. If you are a parent it can be painful to realise that you don't know your child as well as you thought you did and that you have been excluded from a part of their life. To some extent, this is true in all parenting relationships, regardless of sexuality.

Gay, lesbian, trans\* and bisexual people often recognise at an early age that they feel "different" but it may take years before they can put a name to it. It is often not until this stage that they consider telling someone.

Even though you may have some sadness for not having been able to help your child or loved one through that period, or that the outcome would have been different if you'd known earlier, understand that your child or loved one probably could not have told you any sooner. More importantly, doing so now is an invitation to a more open and honest relationship.

### ***What did we do wrong?***

Parents and family members can sometimes experience feelings of guilt when they first find out about their child or loved one's attractions for the same gender. However, there is no evidence that different parenting styles or family situations have a bearing on the development of sexual orientation. What families can provide is an environment in which a young person can understand themselves and strive to reach their full potential.

### ***Why am I uncomfortable with my child or loved one's sexuality?***

Our culture and society provides us with messages about a number of issues, including sexuality.

The negative messages and myths we have learned from our society about sexuality are very strong and not easy to dismiss. However, developing a better understanding of your child or loved one, and becoming more familiar with the issues will help reduce these uncomfortable feelings.

Homophobia is a strong part of our culture, and is similar to many other forms of discrimination and prejudice. As long as homophobia exists in our

society, GLBTI people and their families may have very real and legitimate fears and concerns.

### ***Could a counsellor or therapist be helpful?***

Support for parents and families coming to terms with their child or loved one's sexual orientation can be gained from a counsellor or therapist trained in the area. You may want to talk about your own feelings and how to work through them. It may help you and your child or loved one communicate clearly through this period.

Young people who have acknowledged their attractions to people of the same gender can still have feelings of depression and fear, and may need help with self-acceptance.

Consulting a counsellor or therapist in the hopes of changing your child or loved one's sexual orientation has little value. Homosexuality is not a disease or illness and so is not something to be "cured."

There are other services that can provide information and advice. Please refer to the resource section in the back of this book for suggestions.



## I am worried about my child or loved one:

**Will they be rejected, have trouble finding or keeping a job, or be physically attacked?**

Our society often discriminates and is even violent towards people who are seen to be different.

However, attitudes toward GLBTI people have been slowly changing for the better and are more positive in many places. There are a growing number of groups who are working for such a change and who are ready to help those who have difficulties.

It is important to remember that many GLBTI people have grown to fulfil their dreams and have become very successful and respected people in the community. As a society we may have

a long way to go, but giving your child or loved one support and love will go far to making their journey easier.

**Will my child or loved one be lonely in their old age if they do not have a family of their own?**

GLBTI people do develop long lasting relationships and friendships. Long time gay and lesbian couples perceive their relationships as committed and very much a family. Many GLBTI people do have children.

**Will my child or loved one get into trouble with the law?**

It is not illegal to feel attracted and fall in love with people of the same gender.

As the law stands now, the following applies:

*In Western Australia:*

- it is legal for couples of the same gender to show affection in public, in the same way as it is legal for heterosexual couples to show affection in public;
- it is illegal to have sexual intercourse in public places, regardless

of whether it is between a man and woman, or between people of the same gender.

*The ages of consent are:*

- sexual intercourse between a man and a woman in private is legal from 16 years of age;
- sexual intercourse between two women in private is legal from the age of 16 years of age; and
- sexual intercourse between two men in private is now legal from the age of 16.

Being GLBTI does not mean that a young person is sexually active.

**Should we tell the family, neighbours, friends?**

**"We were frightened that our son would be judged; we were frightened that we would be judged." Bill**

Just as telling people about their sexuality can be difficult for a GLBTI person, it can be equally difficult for parents and families.

Sometimes parents and family members worry about other people finding out. It can be difficult when questions such as "Has he got a girlfriend?" and "When is she going to get married?" are asked. Our suggestion for such situations is to discuss with your child or loved one what can be said and to whom. It is their life

you are discussing and it would be respectful for them to be involved in any decision.

Parents and families have found that their fears were far worse than the reality. Some did not tell extended family for a long time only to have them respond, "We knew that quite a while ago."

It is often easier to make the decision about who, how and when once we understand more about sexual orientation. There are some resources listed at the back of this book that may be of assistance.

It can also help to talk to people who understand your concerns. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) may be helpful.

Remember that your child or loved one has been down this road already. They may even be able to help.

**We have accepted the situation, but why must they flaunt it?**

GLBTI people who reveal their orientation are sometimes accused of "flaunting" their identity. People have the right to express their sexuality providing it does not impinge on the rights of others. "Flaunting it" has many different interpretations.

Many GLBTI people will censor their own behaviour because they fear negative public reaction, and you

may share those fears. But stop and think – if you feel that affectionate behaviour should be a private thing for some, then maybe this should apply to all.

**Is it a sin?**

For some parents, this may be the most difficult issue to face. For others, it's a non-issue.

We each have our own religious or spiritual beliefs. Most religions and churches have members with a range of views and interpretations of their faith. A number of religious organisations support equal rights for GLBTI people, others do not. On page 14 is a list of books on this topic you may wish to read.

**What about HIV / AIDS and other sexually transmissible diseases (STDs)?**

All people and communities face the threat of AIDS.

AIDS is not a gay men's disease. No virus is smart enough to be able to tell what a person's sexuality is. It is the activities that a person practises that places him or her at risk of HIV infection.

Therefore, every parent and family needs to be concerned about HIV / AIDS – regardless of sexuality. Everyone should make sure they understand

how STDs and HIV are transmitted and how to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

HIV is transmitted through blood or semen. It can be transmitted through unprotected sex, sharing needles, or from mother to child through breast milk or during birth.

Practicing safe sex and not sharing needles or equipment is the best way to protect ourselves from HIV, STDs and other blood borne viruses.

If your child or loved one has HIV or AIDS, they need your support more than ever. You should know that you are not alone. There are numerous local and national organisations that can help you with medical, psychological and physical care.

There are excellent resources with more information available about STDs and HIV from the following organisations:

**WA AIDS Council**  
(08) 9482 0000

**Family Planning Association WA**  
(08) 9227 6177

**Health Department of WA**  
1300 135 030

## How can I support my child or loved one?

Reading this book is the first step to supporting your child or loved one. You have shown that you are open to new information and hopefully you are now better informed. Every child needs different things from their family.

Some parents find that they are better able to understand and support their child by recognising the similarities and differences in experiences. You can support your child or loved one by educating yourself as much as possible about sexuality.

Young people realise that GLBTI people are condemned by society. Even before they reach the kindergarten playground, they learn negative words for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. Young people generally

assume that all the people they know are heterosexual; they have no idea that some of the respected adults around them are GLBTI.

Many GLBTI young people feel profoundly isolated: "Surely I am the only person like this." Some are viciously harassed and abused by peers, family members, school, agency personnel and others.

Whether or not they are labelled by others, these young people often:

- fear being discovered and expect rejection;
- carefully guard their feelings to maintain acceptance (or merely to survive);
- have no opportunity openly to date each other or flirt or engage in sexual experimenting like other teens; and
- lack accurate information about their feelings and experiences.



## Risk of depression and suicide

A young person's sexual identity does not itself cause them to feel depressed or suicidal. It is the experience of growing up "different" in a society that often does not support difference and expects everyone to be heterosexual that can be devastating.

In fact, research [5] has indicated that 25% to 40% of young GLBTI people have attempted suicide due to their fear of rejection and feelings of depression and isolation.

Education about GLBTI people is an important step in being able to support young people and prevent further suicide attempts. Avenues need to be created to help young people develop positive self-esteem and skills to deal with a sometimes hostile environment.

These young people need:

- supportive opportunities to socialise with one another;
- resources that specifically address their concerns; and
- sensitive, non-judgmental help as they come to understand themselves.

[5] Remafedi G, Farrow J and Deisher R (1991) "Risk factors for attempted suicide in gay and bisexual youth" *Pediatrics* 87 (6) 869-876.

Rotheram-Borus M, Hunter J and Rosario M (1994) "Suicidal behaviour and gay related stress among gay and bisexual male adolescents" *Journal of Adolescent Research* 9 (4) : 498-508.



**Samaritans YouthLine  
(08) 9388 2500**

**Gay and Lesbian Community Services  
1800 184 527**

If you feel that your child, loved one or anyone you know may be feeling suicidal, here are some suggestions that will help:

- Don't agree to keep their suicidal thoughts a secret. Get a professional to do a suicide risk assessment and don't leave the person alone.
- Take notice of threats. Try not to change the subject because you're scared. This may look like you don't care.
- Don't try to solve their problems as soon as they share them. To a person thinking about suicide, the problems look major and unsolvable right now. They may just want to share them with someone at this stage.
- Don't tell them they're selfish to consider suicide when their life is so good, or that suicide is the easy way out. This will make them feel guilty as well as depressed.

**Kids Helpline  
1800 551 800**

**Crisis Care (Perth)  
(08) 9223 1111  
(outside Metro area)  
1800 199 008**

## Will I ever learn to deal with my child or loved one's sexuality?

Perhaps the best way to answer this is to listen to other parents.

*"I think the turning point for me was when I read more about it, and read that most kids who can accept their sexuality say they feel calmer, happier and more confident. And of course that's what I wanted for my child and I sure didn't want to be what was standing in the way of that." Peter*

*"I have to tell you, there are so many pluses now. You begin to recognise what an incredible child you have to share this with you and to want you to be part of their lives. The trust that's been placed in your hands, and the guts it took to do that, is amazing." Frank*

*"Most of us are like three leaf clovers – sort of ordinary, not much attention is given to us – but once in a while we find a four leaf clover – a rare and wonderful discovery. I remember, as a girl, spending hours looking for that four leaf clover. Occasionally I would find one and press it in a book or iron it between pieces of waxed paper. It was something I treasured, wanted to save and protect. My daughter is like one of those four leaf clovers; her sexual orientation just happens to be different from mine. She is someone I treasure and want to protect. A four leaf clover is not unnatural, just unusual and different from the rest. I would have never considered removing one of the leaves so it would appear to be a three leaf clover." Carol*



## Information

For more information contact Freedom Centre [www.freedom.org.au](http://www.freedom.org.au) or GLCS (WA) [www.gcls.org.au](http://www.gcls.org.au).

### Family and Friends Books

*Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together* Robert A Bernstein, Thunder's Mouth Press, New York, 2003

*Family Outing*, Chastity Bono, Bantam Books, 1999

*My Child is Gay*, Bryce McDougall (Ed), Allen and Unwin, 1998

*When Our Children Come Out: How to Support GLBT Young People* M. Pallotta-Chiarolli, Finch Publishing, 2005.

PFLAG Brisbane CD, can be obtained from PFLAG WA

### Books for LGBT Youth

*Free Your Mind*, Ellen Bass and Kate Kaufman, Harper Perennial, 1996

*Ready or Not*, Mark Macleod, Random House, 1996

*Outing Yourself*, Michelangelo Signorile, Abacus, 1995

*The New Gay Teenager* R. Savin-Williams, Harvard University Press, 2005

*Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex and Gender Diversity* T. O'Keefe and K. Fox, 2003

### Religion

*Homosexuality and Religion*, Richard Hasbury (ed) Hawthorn Press 1990

*Is the Homosexual my Neighbour? A positive Christian Response*, Letha Scanzoni and Virginia R Mollenkott, Harper San Francisco, 1994

*The New Testament and Homosexuality*, Robin Scroggs, Augsburg Fortress, 1984

*Living in Sin? A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality* Bishop J S Spong, Harper Collins Publishers, 1990

### Internet Sites

PFLAG (WA)  
[www.pflagwa.org.au](http://www.pflagwa.org.au)

Freedom Centre  
[www.freedom.org.au](http://www.freedom.org.au)

WA AIDS Council  
[www.waaisd.com](http://www.waaisd.com)

Gay and Lesbian Community Services  
[www.gcls.org.au](http://www.gcls.org.au)

### Contact Numbers and Details

**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**

PFLAG is a social support group for families and friends of gay, lesbian, trans\* and bisexual people. Many people have found it really helpful to talk to other parents, friends and families of young GLBTI people. PFLAG meets once a

month. For more information call the 24 hour helpline on (08) 9228 1005.

**Gay and Lesbian Community Services of WA (Inc)**

Trained volunteer counsellors provide a safe, non-judgemental, and confidential environment where you will be listened to and supported as you work through any issues you may have. They also provide information on a wide range of things such as accommodation, support groups, venues, resources, and just about everything in between. Call (08) 9420 7201 or 1800 184 527.

Monday – Friday  
7pm – 10pm  
[www.gcls.org.au](http://www.gcls.org.au)

### True Colours

True Colours is the rural and regional service that offers support and social opportunities to same sex attracted, gender diverse and questioning young people around WA. True Colours also support the running of a PFLAG group in Bunbury. Contact Jaye

for more info;  
Ph: 1300 663 298  
Ph: 08 9355 9126  
Email:[jaye.edwards@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:jaye.edwards@unitingcarewest.org.au)  
Postal Address:  
GPO Box B74  
PERTH WA 6838

### The Freedom Centre

Freedom Centre supports the health and diversity of young people's sexuality and gender. FC provides a safe social space for LGBTIQ young people to meet others with similar experiences and to access peer support and information. [www.freedom.org.au](http://www.freedom.org.au) is full of info and other great stuff for same sex attracted and gender diverse young people and their supporters.

Phone 9482 0000, 9228 0354  
email: [info@freedom.org.au](mailto:info@freedom.org.au)

### OTHER PFLAG GROUPS AND CONTACTS

**PFLAG Australia/NSW**  
[www.pflagaustralia.org.au](http://www.pflagaustralia.org.au)  
e: [info@pflagaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@pflagaustralia.org.au)  
t: (02) 9874 3624

**PFLAG Victoria**  
[www.pflagvictoria.org.au](http://www.pflagvictoria.org.au)  
e: [contactus@pflagvictoria.org.au](mailto:contactus@pflagvictoria.org.au)  
t: (03) 9827 8408

**Parents Supporting Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PSPFLAG) South Australia**  
[www.pspflag.asn.au](http://www.pspflag.asn.au)  
e: [pspflag@hotmail.com](mailto:pspflag@hotmail.com)  
t: (08) 8369 0718

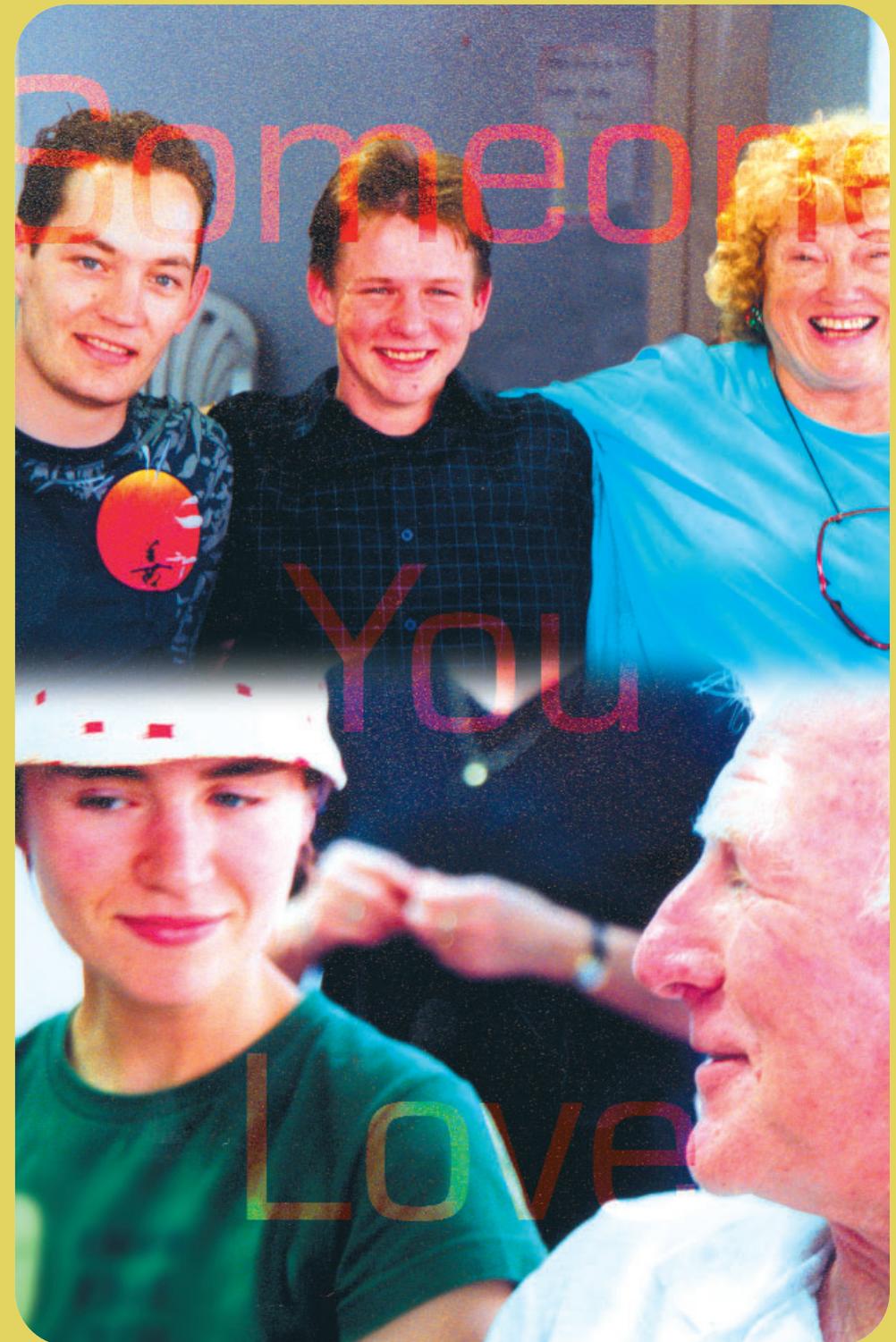
**PFLAG Brisbane, QLD**  
[www.pflagbrisbane.org.au](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au)  
t: (07) 3017 1739

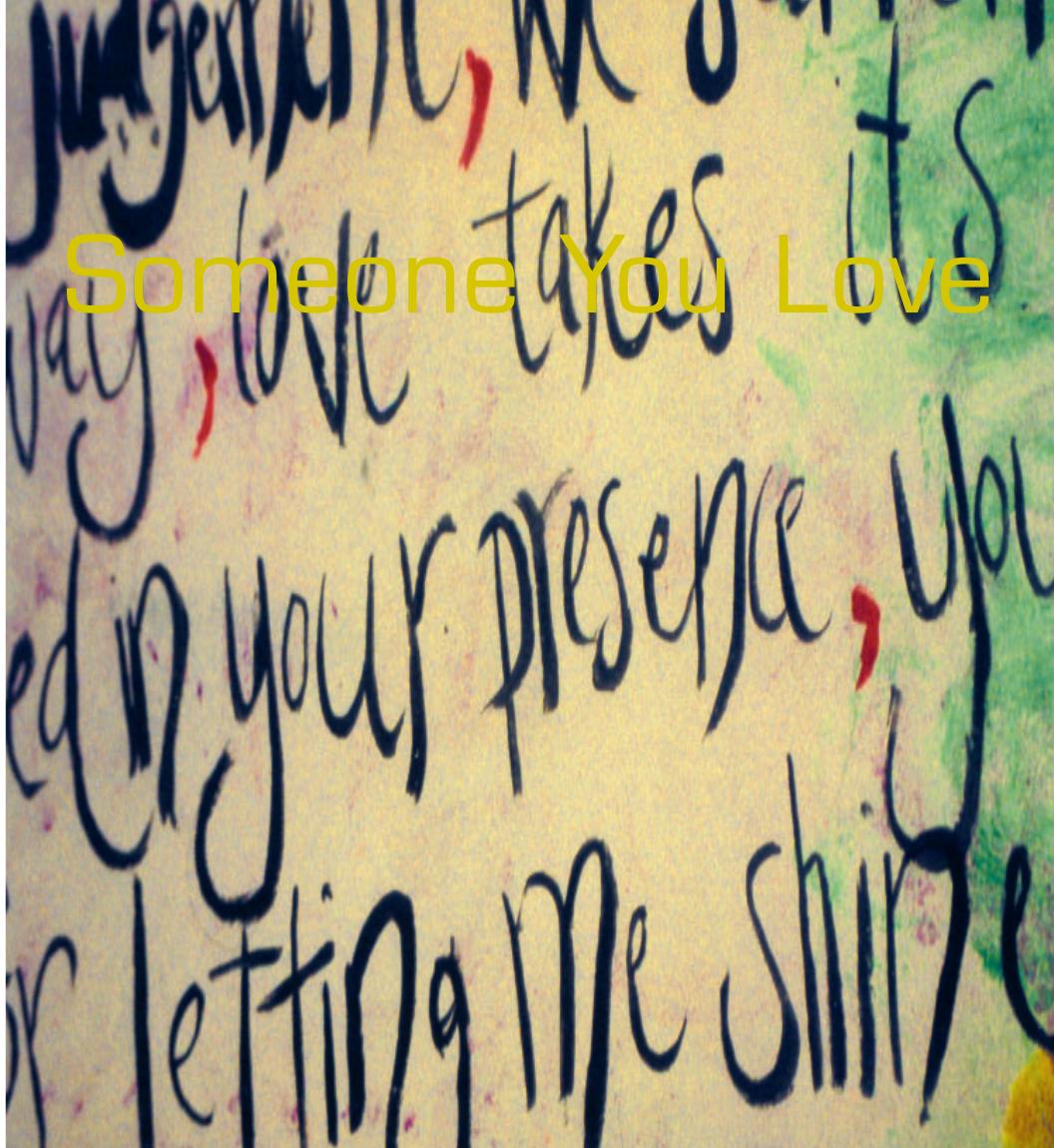
**PFLAG Tasmania**  
e: [pflagtas@yahoo.com.au](mailto:pflagtas@yahoo.com.au)  
t: Els – (03) 6234 2372

**PFLAG Bunbury, WA**  
Ph: Jaye – (08) 9355 9126 / 1300 663 298  
e: [jaye.edwards@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:jaye.edwards@unitingcarewest.org.au)

## Famous Lesbian, Trans\*, Bisexual or Gay People.

- Patrick White, Australian author
- Robyn Archer, Australian singer
- Ian Roberts, Australian rugby player with Super League
- Giz Watson, Western Australian Member of Parliament
- Dr Bob Brown, Australian Federal Senator
- Monique Brumby, Australian Singer
- K.D. Lang, singer
- Dr Kerryn Phelps, Australian Medical Association President
- Hon. Justice Michael Kirby, High Court Judge
- Sir Robert Helpmann, dancer and choreographer
- Julie McCrossin, ABC TV presenter
- Molly Meldrum, rock music commentator
- Michaelangelo, artist
- Billie Jean King, pro tennis champion
- Elton John, pop star
- Melissa Etheridge, singer
- Rock Hudson, actor
- Martina Navratilova, pro tennis champion
- Vita Sackville-West, author
- Roddy Bottum, keyboardist of Faith No More
- Janis Joplin, singer
- David Bowie, rock star and actor
- Isabel Miller, author
- Boy George, pop star
- Amanda Bearse, actress
- Indigo Girls, musicians
- Cole Porter, songwriter
- William S. Burroughs, novelist
- Sophie B Hawkins, singer
- Joan Baez, singer
- Midge Costanza, White House aid to USA President Carter
- William Yang, Australian photographer
- Dorothy Allison, novelist
- Quentin Crisp, writer, actor and humorist
- Ellen DeGeneres, comedian
- Greg Louganis, actor & three-time Olympic gold medalist in diving
- Susan Love, breast-cancer surgeon
- Oscar Wilde, writer
- Virginia Woolf, writer
- Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches
- Sandra Bernhard, comedian
- Christopher Smith, member of the British Parliament
- Gertrude Stein, writer
- Craig Claiborne, food writer
- Karen Clark, Minnesota state legislator
- John Corigliano, classical composer
- Michelle Crone, comedian
- Gasparino Damata, Brazilian writer
- Justin Fashanu, British pro soccer star
- Jean-Paul Gaultier, French fashion designer
- Sir John Gielgud, award-winning actor
- Bruce Hayes, Olympic gold medallist in swimming
- Nona Hendryx, pop singer
- Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris, pro models/bodybuilders
- Marc Jacobs, fashion designer
- Judy Connelli, Singer/Actor
- Paul Capsis, Performer
- Jimmy Somerville, Singer/songwriter
- Freddy Mercury, singer
- Peter Wherrett, Australian racing driver and TV personality
- Peter Allan, Australian singer/songwriter/entertainer
- David Marr, Australian journalist
- Rita May Brown, writer
- Portia De Rossi, actor
- John Hyde, politician
- Brian Grieg, politician
- Bob Downe, actor
- Rupert Everett, actor
- Alan Turing, computer inventor
- Prince Heinrich of Prussia
- Frederick the Great
- Tchaikovsky, composer
- Alexander the Great, ancient conqueror
- E.M. Forster, writer
- Sappho, ancient poet
- James Baldwin, writer
- Rudolf Nureyev, dancer
- Marlene Dietrich, actress
- Mykal Judge, priest
- George Michael, singer
- Cary Grant, actor
- AND MANY, MANY MORE...





WA AIDS Council



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SEXUALITY PROJECT 1997, WA AIDS COUNCIL.