

As very proud parents of our beautiful gay Son, we have joined the establishing group of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) within the ACT. The aim of our group is to “hold monthly support meetings, provide a telephone information service, and other resources to educate parents and others on issues of same-sex attraction.”

It is our fervent hope, that as a considered integral part of a great community of very proud Aussies, we can aim towards providing for each and every one of our beautiful children, no matter what their differences are, whether cultural, physical, intellectual, religious or sexual orientation, a completely safe, caring and inclusive community environment.

This specific environment has been considered by many educated authors, both past and present, to be absolutely essential towards the healthy development of a child to adulthood. Families, often desperately, need confidence that our developed nation is one that can provide every opportunity for our children, and that there is acceptance of diversity in schools, in the work place, at social/ sporting events, either participants or spectators, and every facet of community life within this great country of ours.

Those of our children whom we are blessed to have survived earlier years of persecution, discrimination, vilification, and exclusion, have now become really great Australian citizens. They have great skills within the work force, have great mutual respect and regard for work colleagues, contribute with generous hearts and wonderful support for their families, local and wider communities. They are wonderful people, and they often choose wonderful partners.

They are Australian, they would love to marry, and would love to be considered as equal to any other Australian, and as loving parents we would want that with all our hearts.

Thank you for this opportunity and trusting that the equal rights for all citizens will prevail. There is nothing to fear from our children.

Dianne and Ian Hinton on behalf of PFLAG ACT