



New South Wales Teachers Federation
a branch of the Australian Education Union

AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697

Locked Bag N° 3010, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 • 02 9217 2100 • www.nswtf.org.au
NSW PRESIDENT: Maurie Mulheron • NSW GENERAL SECRETARY: John Dixon



18 December 2017

In reply please quote: 1308/2017/MS:sr

Ms Terese Casu
CEO
Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
Suite 6, 94 Oxford Street
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

Email: reception@mardigrasarts.org.au

Dear Ms Casu

Re: 40th year of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade

The NSW Teachers Federation wishes Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (SGLMG) every success in its 40th year and in the 2018 parade.

As the Federation has been advised by Mardi Gras that our float entry has been rejected we won't be there as a group in the parade to support those community groups we have worked with over the last forty years and show support to our LGBTIQ members and students in schools.

Since the Federation is unable to celebrate at the parade this year we want to indicate our continued support for the LGBTIQ community, which has most recently been demonstrated during our support of the Yes campaign for marriage equality and for Safe Schools.

However the Federations' support for LGBTIQ students and teachers has not just been in recent years, and in fact our first policy indicating support of LGBTIQ members was in 1978. The Federation has advocated for LGBTIQ people in the removal of homosexuality as a crime in the 1980s, during the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 90s, and for removing discrimination under the law including equal age of consent and marriage equality from the 1990s and early 2000s. Additionally, the Federation was involved in the Workers Out Conference alongside the Gay Games in 2000 and has maintained some form of a LGBTIQ Special Interest Group for members since the early 80s to enable members to highlight areas of concern and action for the Union.

Federation has also worked with LGBTIQ community groups over the years, and more extensively during critical times when we have been a close part of action undertaken with supportive groups in the community. This includes during the difficult time of HIV/AIDS where we supported hundreds of our members and also connected them to organisations supporting community members including ACON, Community Support Network and the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation. We have also been actively involved with the NSW Anti-Homophobia Interagency (including ACON, GLRL, Twenty10, Wear It Purple, PFLAG, NSW Police GLLOs and others) and more recently within the Safe Schools/Wear It Purple/Gayby Baby and Marriage Equality campaigns.

The Federation has been proud to have directly worked with Mardi Gras at times when they needed places to train their marshals and have meetings and to have participated previously as part of the festival, at Fair Day and in the parade. Members of the Federation have participated over the span on the parade from 1978 through to the current day in many areas including as protesters, volunteers, as participants on other floats and on the NSW Teachers Federation float. Many members have indicated

their joy at seeing the NSW Teachers Federation float in the parade and the message conveyed to students and the wider community of the support that the teachers at Federation can give to students, teachers and their school communities.

Teachers and public education serve our community and provide an invaluable contribution to society. Every member of the LGBTIQ community has had some form of interaction with teachers and schools. The NSW Teachers Federation strives to ensure public schools are safe, inclusive environments for all students, parents, teachers and the broader community.

The NSW Teachers Federation is a proud social justice union. Time and time again we are at the forefront of supporting diverse groups of peoples, communities which our members also belong. We are proud of the political role we have played in supporting the LGBTIQ community and society on the whole by achieving gains for all.

We look forward to continuing to work with SGLMG and other LGBTIQ community groups to both celebrate our shared history as well as to address continuing inequalities. We wish you a fantastic 40th year of Mardi Gras, and hope to see you at Fair Day.

Yours sincerely



John Dixon
General Secretary

cc. Grant Lowe, Parade Producer, SGLMG
Emily Santiago, Parade Coordinator, SGLMG
Executive Board, SGLMG