



Case Study— Markie Linhart

Graphic Designer / Country Air Lover / Massive Attack Expert

Markie is a regular attendee at All The Queens Men's events, projects and initiatives that are committed to older members of the LGBTI+ community. Markie lives regionally and regularly travels to participate in the Company's life. As an older person, Markie transitioned from male to female, and is now living in her fullest gendered and cultural identity.

Markie reflects on her experiences of All The Queens Men:

"I first came across All The Queens Men via a link from another source, and specifically the LGBTI+ Elders Dance Club, then being held at the Fitzroy Town Hall. I was blown away by the photos I saw, the fun being had and the gathering of LGBTQI+ community members and the ages of the participants matching my own.

Who are these people I asked myself? The answer was; people like me.

My initial reaction was (from my country living room) hell, I'm not as alone as I thought I was. So, questions arose; how do I go to this?

Intrepidness followed with some reluctance to make the move. It should be noted that about this time, mid 2017, I was preparing to have my Gender Assignment Surgery, so I let this slide). Then, I found the info (post op) about The Coming Back Out Ball in Melbourne and I resolved to go!

It was a truly spectacular event, extraordinarily organised by some extraordinary people who made extraordinary efforts to make it possible for me to attend.

Well, post Ball there was absolutely no reason why I shouldn't go to the LGBTI+ Elders Dance Club and so I did. The experience was brilliant. I met more people and had a lot of fun, even though my two left feet refused to follow Bec Reid's choreography a lot of the time, but it mattered not. It was and continues to be fun!



I attended The Coming Back Out Ball in 2018 and it was yet another spectacular event. It was made so much more meaningful to me personally by my involvement in the project's media campaign on the ABC's 7:30 Report; thanks to Tristan and Bec.

So, the point all this is that, All The Queens Men engenders a sense of belonging and for the first time in my new life I feel included and a little bit loved."



Case Study—

Hannah Bradsworth

Dancer / Scrapbooker / Backstreet Boy Super Fan

Hannah joined All The Queens Men as a Speaker in Congress presented by Wyndham City Council in 2019. She collaborated with a local wordsmith, Wani Le Frere and together they created Hannah's 'first speech' which she shared to a rapturous reception in the event. A young woman in her mid 30s, Hannah is a passionate dancer living with Down Syndrome.

Hannah reflects on her experiences of All The Queens Men:

"All The Queens Men is a high standard Company and I know they have worked extremely hard across communities to be able to share their ideas with other people.

I believe in my heart that it's really important All The Queens Men are able to support people with disabilities like me. Because they don't tell me who I should be.

The benefit of working with All The Queens Men is that they really support each person. They want people to have their own say about what they're doing in their lives and for me, that mean expressing to the world and sharing my love, passion and respect for dancing. I've been dancing for 25 years and All The Queens Men heard and respect that about me.

I actually like working with Bec and Tristan because they are really nice people and they helped me through my Congress speech. I loved doing Congress because it made me feel like a confident speaker.

Tristan and Bec are both kind, very supportive and passionate about what they do.

And...well, I really like working with All The Queens Men."





Case Study— Damon Paraha

Feminist / Poet / Father

A proud Maori / Samoan Australian man, Damon is a Youth Support Worker and a recording artist. Damon joined All The Queens Men as a Speaker in Congress presented by Wyndham City Council in 2019. Damon collaborated with a local wordsmith, Fatima Measham and together they created Damon's 'first speech' revealing some of his thoughts around patriarchal power, domestic violence and colonisation. During his participation in Congress, Damon became a father for the second time to his son, Zion. Damon is 22 and passionate about his children's future.

Damon reflects on his experiences of All The Queens Men:

"The experience of the Company is that of a very genuine place.

ATQM are an awesome organisation who help provide a platform for people who often don't get a voice; who don't feel like they have a voice within and throughout their communities.

My personal experience as a collaborator was incredible! When I was approached to participate in Congress, I didn't expect it to become what it did and I didn't expect to meet so many different, new people from my very own community. The whole collaborative experience was pleasantly unexpected.

Essentially, I think ATQM is special because they're not trying to gain from others. You don't feel like they have an agenda because they're genuinely allowing people to explore their own identities and shed light on things people want to discuss, on their terms.

I think the benefit of the Company's work is providing platforms like the theatrical, political experience of Congress that just otherwise wouldn't exist. Sometimes you need a little push to talk about topics that are or perceived to be taboo. By providing a platform like



Congress, it gave me, us, the community the chance to express ourselves around issues that wouldn't otherwise get raised, so organically.

The Company is made up of an incredible group of people and I hope to collaborate with them again and again...

Also, they have a cool name; changing Kings to Queens is cool."