

LOUD & CLEAR

GOD'S WORK

While Sydney's Anglican and Catholic Archbishops try to put the fear of God into their parishioners, advising them to avoid the "gross exhibitionism" of the Mardi Gras parade, Rabbi Ariel Friedlander wants to send a different message. He'll be in the march, along with about 150 Jewish community members.

The Dayenu Association (of lesbian and gay Jews) is hoping the parade entry will go a long way to building bridges between lesbians and gay men and the Jewish community. One of the organisers, Dawn Coner, has spoken in the past about the difficulties faced by people who find

themselves with a foot in both camps. "The Jewish community doesn't understand a lot about gay men and lesbians," she said, "And gay men and lesbians don't know a lot about the Jewish community."

"Jewish lesbians and gay men face many of the similar hurdles that Asians and Catholics do," says another organiser, Judy Kell. "There's a lot of pressure to get married and have kids." According to her, the most important message the float will be carrying is about participation in both communities. "We want to make an equal and active contribution."