

Dave's out ... and proud

By Erin McWhirter

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EVICTED *Big Brother* gay farmer, David Graham, has shown a public display of affection for his boyfriend Sharif after being evicted from the reality show.

In an emotional reunion after David spent 99 days in the Gold Coast house, the lovers kissed passionately before holding each other in a tearful embrace.

The pair met just three weeks before David, 26, went into lockdown for the reality TV program.

"I love you," they told each other, wearing microphones before a live national TV audience of hundreds of thousands.

While inside the compound, David often spoke of his love for his boyfriend, who he met at a dance party during Sydney's gay and lesbian annual Mardi Gras.

Sharif said it was hard being away from David, but he found comfort in seeing his boyfriend profess his love for him on television.

"(The) first few weeks (I felt) pure depression," he said live on stage last night holding David's hand firmly.

"After that I was just watching all times, practically glued to the screen."

Known for his emotional outbursts in the house, David said "coming out" as gay on national television was a life-changing experience.

He said he kept the lid on his sexuality initially because he did not want to be judged by the other housemates.

"I wanted them to get to know me without knowing what I do in my spare time," he told host Gretel Killeen.

"I realised how difficult it was to keep that small part (secret)."

The Queensland contestant had told only a handful of immediate family members he was gay, but kept it a secret from his father.

"Before coming in here my dad didn't even know," he said.

"It's good that whole fear of being gay and everyone knowing about it is gone. Every Tom, Dick and Harry ... my family (now) knows about it.

"The fear and pain ... all gone."

He participated in the program to see if Australians accepted the gay community and him.

"When I survived a nomination, I knew within myself, that people didn't have a problem with me," he said.

"I genuinely thought a lot of Australians had a massive issue with gay people, I realised that's not true any more, at all.

"The whole thing for me, being here, was showing Australia and housemates you can be gay."

David said he plans to go back to his farm, leave the *Big Brother* experience behind and start his life afresh, without his secret hanging over his head.

"Live the rest of my life with a husband," he said.

"I am not a failure, I am a proud gay man."



Out ... Dave / Endemol Southern Star