

Supplementary submission on Pae Ora (Health Futures) Bill

26 January 2022 - Te Ngākau Kahukura

Te Ngākau Kahukura made a [submission on the Pae Ora Bill](#) asking for the law to recognise the takatāpui and rainbow population as a priority group, and put in place a requirement for the health system to develop a national strategy to address health disparities and provide for population-specific health needs.

This supplementary submission lists the people and organisations who support Te Ngākau Kahukura's submission and the need for a national takatāpui and rainbow health strategy

The submission is supported by:

Professional Association for Transgender Health Aotearoa (PATHA)

OutLine Aotearoa

Adhikaar Aotearoa

InsideOUT Kōaro

Pride in Health

New Zealand AIDS Foundation

Rainbow Hub Waikato

Rainbow Wellington

Qtopia

Dunedin Pride

Trans South NZ

CHROMA - The LGBTQI+ Initiative for Southland

TKH Therapy

QPK Counselling Ltd

Silver Rainbow

Rainbow Tick

Further comments by supporters:

Health inequities experienced by takatāpui and rainbow communities may manifest in all areas of health. This includes increased vulnerability to sexuality transmitted diseases. For example, in Aotearoa, gay and bisexual men are over 348 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV and over 162 times more likely to be diagnosed with syphilis than the heterosexual population. Globally, research has found that COVID-19 pandemic carries the risk to further exacerbate these inequities, and strategic action is needed to address existing issues with equitable aspect to respectful and appropriate care for all takatāpui and rainbow communities. - *New Zealand AIDS Foundation*

It needs to be available across the motu, not be location dependent. Upskilling of health professionals across the board must happen. - *Silver Rainbow*

Ara Taiohi supports the creation of a national health strategy for takatāpui and rainbow people. There is overwhelming evidence that these communities - and particularly takatāpui and rainbow young people - are likely to experience greater physical and mental health issues that go unmet by our current health systems. Ara Taiohi believes that for Pae Ora to create true effective, equitable change, takatāpui and rainbow people must be considered as a priority group with their own national strategy; this should be co-created with these communities, informed by the wealth of research available to us, and should take extra measures to support trans, intersex and young people within the rainbow communities. - *Ara Taiohi*

Ara Taiohi

MHAIDS 3DHB

South Otago Counselling Services

Thriving Madly

The Green Lab

David Sar Shalom Abadi (General practitioner, Invercargill Medical Centre; Chairperson, CHROMA - The LGBTQI+ Initiative for Southland)

Avery

Dr Karen Benattar (Sexual Health Specialist)

Tabby Besley (Managing Director, InsideOUT Kōaro)

Claire Black (General Manager, OutLine)

Nathan Bramwell (Manager, Rainbow Hub Waikato and proud transgender man)

Luca Bree (Board Member, OutLine Aotearoa)

Vicki Burnett

Rona Carroll (General Practitioner and Senior Lecturer, University of Otago)

Joshua Carter

Jade Caulfield

Louise Chan (Associate Director of Nursing for Mental Health, Addiction and Intellectual Disability Services)

Too often gender diverse healthcare is dismissed as nonessential or cosmetic, and entire sections of the transgender community are barred from accessing services due to not being 'trans enough.' It is long past time we had a dedicated strategy to provide care to nonbinary, intersex and binary trans people who seek a unique transition pathway that best fits us and our lives, rather than best fitting the predetermined box healthcare providers want to put us in - at the expense of our comfort and authenticity. - *(anon)*

It is critical that reducing inequities in health outcomes and promoting wellbeing in gender and sexuality diverse people, especially takatāpui and trans people, becomes a priority for health and addiction services. Thriving takatāpui and rainbow people contributes to well whānau, well communities, well economy and a well Aotearoa - *Barry Taylor*

deserve safety and support always - *moss*

As a parent of a trans child, I have become very aware of the importance of skilled healthcare and gender affirming care. I have also become painfully aware of the gaps and inequities (geographical and otherwise) in service provision. We have been fortunate, but I am aware others are not so fortunate and a health strategy would reduce both inequities and deaths by suicide. - *Duncan Milne*

Gender affirming healthcare needs to be accessible to everyone in Aotearoa. - *Luca Bree*

I support this submission as a health, youth and community development professional who has worked in the rainbow communities alongside mainstream sectors to establish access, awareness, competency and representation for takatāpui, rainbow (including intersex and trans/non binary folks) for 16years in Aotearoa. Too often work from the past is buried amongst reports that hold a population focus that erases takatāpui and rainbow communities. I see this erasure impact people individually day to day. We must walk with greater humility across this map. Build valleys of trust and ensure the upcoming changes to data collection, research practices and service delivery continue to reveal the vitality and strength of takatāpui and rainbow communities contribution to our health and wellbeing in Aotearoa. These communities are part

across Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa DHB)

Moira Clunie MNZM (Project Lead, Te Ngākau Kahukura; Co-Chairperson, OutLine; Policy & Advocacy Committee Member, Professional Association for Transgender Health Aotearoa)

Paige Clunie

Anny da Silva Freitas

Tim danko (for ponzo Alexei danko)

Sally Dellow (Co-Chairperson, Rainbow Wellington)

Nic Dorward (Social Worker)

Kyla Dyresen

Sarah Engelbrecht

Tara Forde

Amanda Foster (HIV CNS - Waikato DHB)

Kim Fowler

Bob Frame

Carlee Gregory

Kyle Habershon (Treasurer, Auckland Pride; Facilitator, GayIRL; Ambassador, New Zealand AIDS Foundation.)

Allyson Hamblett

Tommy Hamilton

Katherine Hastelow

Sydney Heremaia (Takatāpui)

Khye Hitchcock (Programme Director, The Green Lab)

of some vital knowledge, our lens is not practiced yet in reading these narratives in solidarity with other population informed approaches perhaps. I hope we can practice finding the gaps and informing ourselves alongside the wider health sector of the possibilities to inform beneficial change. - *TKH Therapy*

The strategy should prioritise education and training in takatāpui and rainbow health for all staff working in healthcare settings and the equitable provision of gender affirming healthcare across Aotearoa NZ including mental health services. - *(anon)*

As a Rainbow identifying mental health professional I have lived/witnessed the terrible and growing consequences of there NOT being a strategy in place. - *Mani Mitchell*

Trans people need a high standard of care, including gender reassignment surgeries. Also really important that hospital staff respect patients gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, including pronouns. - *Allyson Hamblett*

Because takatāpui and rainbow communities experience a vast, and alarming, range of health inequalities, at various intersections of identity, that must be addressed so these communities can thrive. - *Veronica*

Robust population-based research, drawing on adolescent samples over 20 years (i.e., NZ's Youth'2000 surveys), has repeatedly highlighted numerous health inequalities for rainbow young people. In addition to better supporting sexual minority youth, a particular focus on enhancing the health and well-being of trans and intersex youth is urgently needed. - *Dr Mathijs Lucassen*

Takatāpui and rainbow people in general present important health inequities that can be ultimately connected to experiences of minority stress and intersectionality (multiple stigmatised identities). A health strategy that focuses on LGBTQ+ specific needs and challenges would certainly provide much needed resources and support, particularly around tackling stigma and discrimination and improving health outcomes across the board. - *CHROMA - The LGBTQI+ Initiative for Southland*

Claud Ibbotson (Senior Advisor
Mental Wellbeing, Te Hiringa
Hauora)

Kay Jones (Coordinator, Wellington
Bisexual Women's Group)

Rachel Jowett

Sam Kee

Alex Ker (InsideOUT Kōaro)

Hannah Komatsu (Chairperson,
Thriving Madly)

Hannah May Lee

Angelo Libeau (Community Liaison
- HELP Auckland / Rainbow
Portfolio - TOAH-NNEST)

Lily Linton

Dr Mathijs Lucassen (Senior
Lecturer, Department of Health and
Social Care, The Open University
(UK) & Honorary Senior Lecturer,
Department of Psychological
Medicine, FMHS, University of
Auckland)

Dr Caroline Mackenzie (GP)

Lexie Matheson ONZM

Aych McArdle (Co-chairperson,
OutLine)

Duncan Milne (Registered Nurse,
parent of a trans child)

Mani Mitchell (Intersex advocate -
mental health professional - Mitchell
Consulting)

Dee Morgan (MNZAC-registered
counsellor)

Mental fitness, systemic racism, access to GAHC and
safety in all environments. - *Sydney Heremaia*

A takatāpui and rainbow health strategy is critical for
creating an ongoing acknowledgment of the unique
needs of these communities. It is an equity issue that
must be addressed. - *Lexie Matheson ONZM*

Working within the Ministry of Health and being part of
the rainbow community myself has made it all to clear
how much more we could be supporting health
services for my community. - *Freya Morris-Cole*

A takatāpui and rainbow health strategy is important to
meet both the health needs of our communities for
takatāpui and rainbow specific health needs and to
ensure equitable access for general health needs. Our
communities need to feel safe, and know they are safe
when accessing healthcare. - *Sally Dellow*

Over 25 years working in health promotion I have
witnessed the devastating impacts of the
marginalisation and mis-treatment of LGBTQIA+
people such as the disproportionate experience of
mental distress and suicide. There must be a national
health plan specific to the needs of this diverse
community. - *Amanda Schulze*

Recognition of the health needs and delivery of gold
standard care for our takatāpui and rainbow community
should be inherent in our health system. Having it
stated explicitly in our health strategy should be a
given. - *Dr Caroline Mackenzie*

For many years the needs of queer people have been
inadequately addressed within Aotearoa's health
system. The development of a national takatāpui and
rainbow health and disability strategy is a significant
step in remedying this situation. - *Charles Shaw*

In a thriving society it is important for all parts of society
to have easy access to mental health support - *Tania
Psathas*

Takatāpui and rainbow people have unique health
needs and their health outcomes are poorer than the
cis-heterosexual population. It is necessary for these
needs to be addressed to improve our quality of life. -
Dr Tara Pond

Freya Morris-Cole (Advisor,
Ministry of Health)

moss

Ari Nicholson (Educator)

Vito Nonumalo

Janet Peters MNZM

Vinetta Plummer

Taine Polkinghorne

Dr Tara Pond

Cathie Powell

Freedom Preston

Tania Psathas

Stace Robertson

Dr Lynne Russell (Ngāti
Kahungunu, Rangitāne, Kāi Tahu,
Ngāti Porou)

Anderson S

Amanda Schulze (Public Health
Practitioner)

Charles Shaw (Board member,
Qtopia)

Dr Emily Shine (GP)

Nicole Nyx Simons
(Homelessness Lead, Te Ngākau
Kahukura)

Alissa Smith

Cathy Stephenson (GP at Mauri
Ora, Student health and counselling
service, Victoria University of
Wellington)

- Takatāpui and rainbow people have higher rates of mental illness, and with the mental health sector at breaking point, it is difficult for many to find help, especially since there may be an added fear of discrimination.

- Intersex and trans people need to be protected in medical environments as they are especially vulnerable to abuse; for example, some intersex children may be forced into 'normalising' surgeries to 'correct' harmless variations in sex characteristics, before they can even consent to these.

- Something needs to be done to ensure that rainbow people no longer feel too scared to reveal their identity in medical environments when being open about it could actually improve their treatment. - *Joshua Carter*

Mental health issues are higher for sexual and gender minority people than for heterosexual and cisgender people. While some of the disparity is due to social stigma, inadequate training of, and support from health professionals exacerbates the issues. In the long term this costs the country money and costs LGBTIQ+ people lives or livelihoods. We deserve more equitable treatment. - *Kay Jones*

It's hugely important to have a 'takatāpui and rainbow health strategy'. Historically we are aware of the shortfalls and continuing barriers that continue to prevent and sadly contribute to exacerbating negative health care support experiences for our diverse queer gender, sex and relationship communities. A strategy would provide the waka (vision conduit) for clearer frameworks, processes and protocols which could better support greater transparency and accountability in regards to better improved culturally safe practise and particularly speak to the health development nuances that are greatly needed when working with our queer/rainbow communities. A big issue is the lack of grassroots capacity on the ground and there's a chicken and egg situation that has occurred. There is not enough appropriate competent takatāpui and rainbow health development support mahi offered because there is not enough takatāpui and rainbow health development training offered. And then there is not enough adequate training offered because there is not enough putea to fund this much needed mahi, which leaves the systemic impression that there is not enough need! Of course, as we know from research (Counting Ourselves etc), there is a huge need for

Barry Taylor (Principal Consultant,
TaylorMade Training & Wellbeing)

Dr Jaimie Veale (Transgender
Health Research Lab, School of
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Veronica

Catherine Anne Vos

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Manager, Ara Taiohi)

Julie Watson

Kaye Wolland (Registered
Psychologist in Private Practice)

Ivan Sean Yeo

better resourced, queer/Rainbow informed and increased health development support mahi in Aotearoa. Lastly, it's an opportunity to have a health strategy that is "for us and by us". We know the problems and we know the solutions! - *Anny da Silva Freitas*