

## Submission on the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill

On behalf of the Tikanga Toru Youth Commission of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa,  
New Zealand and Polynesia

Tikanga Toru Youth Commission **Support** the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill

The Tikanga Toru Youth Commission is the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia's agent for Tikanga Toru Youth Ministry. Our purpose is to strengthen and support ministry for young people through advocacy, training, and fellowship. Our mission is to disciple young people to be Christ-centred in our Three-Tikanga Church. We are committed to speaking the truth in love, being open, honest, and vulnerable. We listen to each other's talanoa; of who we've been, who we are and who we will be in God, *Imago Dei*.

### SUBMISSION POINTS

- We support the Bill in principle and its purpose to prevent harm caused by conversion practices and promote respectful and open discussions regarding sexuality and gender.
- We believe that human beings of every age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are made in the image of God, *Imago Dei*. We believe that conversion practices are detrimental to the hauora of takatāpui and LGBTQIA+ New Zealanders.
- Sadly, we acknowledge that these practices have and continue to occur within some of our churches and youth groups. We are deeply saddened and angered by this as these practices are unacceptable violations of *Imago Dei*.
- As our Church's agent for Tikanga Toru Youth Ministry we are tasked with overseeing ministry to all youth, including takatāpui and LGBTQIA+ young people. Our young people are taonga. They are in a vulnerable stage of growing and living into their identities, including their genders and sexualities. As leaders of church communities, we must uphold and support them in their journey.
- We take our lead from Jesus Christ, who welcomes with courageous and generous love all young people and all those shunned by society. We look to Christ who stands against those who seek to oppress and harm these people. Therefore, we are against all forms of conversion practices affecting all peoples, especially our young people.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Amend Part 2 Clause 8 subsection 1 (a) to have no age limitations.**
  - o We believe that all people of all ages should be protected from abusive and harmful practices

- **Amend Part 2 Clause 8 subsection 2 to include health services (as defined in section 5(1) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003) which a person may be practicing under their authority to also be liable for conviction.**
  - o Those holding authority within health service providers should be held accountable to ensure those within their employment do not carry out conversion practices. Health service providers, as employers, should be held to the same liability and mandate of helping, not harming, their patients.
  
- **Clause 12 of Part 2 be removed.**
  - o To increase the accessibility of justice so that one person (the Attorney-General) cannot gatekeep the consent for such prosecutions.

In sending this submission we are committing to doing all that we can as leaders to transform the culture of our churches and youth groups into safe and welcoming spaces for our takatāpui and LGBTQIA+ young people.

Peace,

O'Love Uluave (Chairwoman), The Most Reverend Donald Tamihere, The Reverend Ruihana Paenga, Hineauripo Waenga, The Reverend Zhane Whelan, The Reverend Canon Michael Hughes, Etienne Wain, Lorna Gray, Edmund Hilder, Dini Tukana and Caroline Chambers.

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