



16 February 2022

Emerge Aotearoa Group Statement - Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill (2022)

The Emerge Aotearoa Group celebrates the passing of the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill (2022).

The Bill aims to recognise and prevent harm caused by conversion practices; and promote open and respectful discussions regarding sexuality and gender.

Conversion practice is any practice, sustained effort, or treatment that is directed toward a person because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. It intends to change or suppress that person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Conversion practices do not work, are unsafe and cause considerable harm.

Once signed into law, it will be illegal to perform or arrange conversion practices on any person under 18 years, or who lacks decision -making capacity. It will also be illegal to perform conversion practice on a person of any age, where this causes serious harm.

Aotearoa New Zealand has now joined the proud company of other jurisdictions who have banned conversion practices.

We want to especially acknowledge the huge contribution of those who came forward in the Select Committee Process to share their personal stories of pain & trauma caused by conversion practices. Their Lived Experience made a real difference. We stand with them.

We thank the many professional associations and religious institutions who stood with us in opposing conversion practices.

People of diverse LGBTQI+ identities exist in all cultures across time. Rainbow people are wholly and beautifully made; not inherently sick, criminal, or sinful. As such, are worthy of respect and legal protection.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Disley".

Barbara Disley

Emerge Aotearoa Group Chief Executive Officer



Emerge Aotearoa's submission can be found here [Emerge Aotearoa - Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill Submission](#)

You can read the Bill here

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2021/0056/latest/LMS487197.html>