

Nominations, conference,
consultations, and upcoming
events

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Rainbow Network Newsletter

November 2024



Kia ora whānau,

You have received this email because you have indicated that you want to be in the rainbow network and receive emails. If this is not correct, please email rainbow@ppta.org.nz and the database will be updated.

If you have a colleague who wishes to be added (or you received this email from a colleague and want to be added to the list) please email rainbow@ppta.co.nz.

There is also a [PPTA Rainbow Facebook page](#). We encourage you to join the conversation and keep up to date with issues and events there. There are a few questions to answer before you will be added – this is because it is for members only, and people's names are often different on Facebook from our database.

Rainbow Taskforce - Call for Nominations

The PPTA Rainbow Taskforce works towards the goal of making all schools safe and welcoming for sex, gender and sexuality diverse students, staff and family/whānau members. It meets once or twice a year for a full day meeting, and at other times in conjunction with PPTA events such as Annual Conference and the Issues and Organising seminar. The taskforce also provides Safer School Workshops at the request of schools.

At the beginning of 2024 we increased the size of the taskforce to eight people. On 31 December each year half of the taskforce members' terms come to an end to ensure staggered terms for continuity. We have also had one member step down due to additional responsibilities in their day job so we are now calling for expressions of interest for five roles on the taskforce.

The term for members of the taskforce is two years (with one of the current vacant positions having just one year remaining of the term) i.e. until 31 December 2025 or 31 December 2026.

Nominations close Monday 25 November 2024. We will be seeking network membership and geographical representation and will confirm the outcome the week following the close of nominations.

[More information and nomination form](#)

Safer Schools for All Workshops

The Safer Schools workshops have been running since 2012. And there have been a dozen delivered or booked in for later this year. The continued demand for these workshops and positive response to them continues to affirm the importance of this mahi.

If you think your school would benefit from a workshop, try suggesting it to your principal. The workshop has now been presented in over 150 schools. [See here for more information about the workshops.](#)



PPTA Annual Conference

The PPTA Annual Conference had strong rainbow representation with two rainbow themed papers put forward and many members of the rainbow network there to support this mahi and connect with one another.

The "Encouraging Rainbow Community Liaisons" paper reaffirmed PPTA's support for making schools safe and

welcoming places for sexuality and gender diversity as well as encouraging Rainbow Community Coordinator roles within schools through future collective agreement negotiations. Several rainbow members shared moving stories about the mahi that they already do and what that means for rainbow students.

A second paper, "Constitutional Amendments: Amending Gendered Pronouns", was also warmly received. This means the gendered language in the PPTA constitution will be updated. As the paper itself stated: "by amending our constitution to make it gender neutral, we bring this key document in line with our values as a union and professional association."

The papers and reports from the conference can be accessed in the [members' area of the PPTA website](#).

RSE Guidelines Consultation

Wren attended a zoom meeting between ERO and a group of caregivers of transgender young people in relation to the RSE guidelines consultation. It was a positive meeting and it appeared that the ERO researchers leading the project were listening to the concerns about the potential outcomes of this consultation and the process which is taking place.

Proposed changes to the Education Act

The government is proposing to remove the Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP) from the Education Act and all references to student rights, the Human Rights Act (HRA), and New Zealand Bill of Human Rights Act (NZBORA). This has potential to impact marginalised students including rainbow students.

While submissions are now closed, the [PPTA](#) and [Te Huarahi](#) submissions emphasised the importance of keeping the NELPs in place. The NELPs include statements like: "Create a safe and inclusive culture where diversity is valued and all learners/ākonga and staff, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+... feel they belong."

Proposed changes will need to be included in a further Amendment Bill to be introduced to Parliament next year. Keep an eye on PPTA Collective News for more information as it becomes available.

Looking for funding for rainbow activities?

The Rule Foundation funds rainbow community groups including education groups and has multiple funding rounds for applications from groups you are a part of or know of!

The funding can be for smaller amounts up to \$5k or larger projects and kaupapa of up to \$50k

More information on the website:

<https://www.rulefoundation.nz/>



Auckland Events - Save the Date

Big Gay Out 2025 is on Sunday 16th February. Representatives from the PPTA Rainbow Network have joined forces with the NZEI to host a stall under the umbrella banner of "Pride in Education". Please stop by!

There is also a group of educators planning to walk under the banner "Pride in Education" at the Auckland Pride Parade in Ponsonby on the 15th February. Details of the group will be posted on [Rainbow Teachers NZ](#) page - check in there closer to the time and join in the fun!

Wellington Events - Save the Date

The Wellington Pride Parade will march down Courtenay Place & Dixon Street on Saturday 8 March between 5:30 – 7pm. Join a group of educators proudly representing pride in education. Details will be shared on the PPTA Rainbow Network facebook group closer to the time.

Queer Quiz Night - Te Whanganui-A-Tara/Wellington

Rainbow Kaiako is a rōpū that meets twice a term to provide support and advice in relation to our identities as queer educators/support staff. We are celebrating the end of the year with our second annual Queer Quiz Night on Friday 22nd of November at 6:30pm at Island Bay Community Centre. Make some friends, have some kai, and test your queer trivia! Haere mai koutou :)

If there are any other events happening around the country, please share these in the [Rainbow Network Facebook page](#).

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