

# ANAHERA FOLEY-PAAMA

*SHE/HER*

APPLYING FOR TREASURER & GENERAL  
BOARD MEMBER

Kia ora, I'm Anahera. Ko Te Arawa rātou ko Ngai te Rangi, ko Maniapoto oku iwi. I have lived all over the country but I tend to call Auckland home. My marae are in Rotorua and Tauranga on Matakana Island, so those are home to me too.

I have been involved with RainbowYOUTH for about 4 years. I started interning while I was studying Psychology and Māori Development at AUT, then became a facilitator for ID, and about a year later I started working for RY. I finished my role as Communications and Office Coordinator in August 2018. During my time I saw loads of growth – we initially had 5 staff, I was here when we set the 2020 strategy, when the Tauranga office opened, and even when we were based at 281 K Road. The amazing thing about growth is being able to offer more services to the communities that desperately need them... but we're still a long way from RY's services being accessible to every young person in Aotearoa.

Since RY, I've been working in the charity fundraising sector, both here and in London. I feel very lucky to have learnt so much about creating financial opportunities for charities at an operational and strategic level. I am super eager to share some skills that I think will be incredibly valuable to RY.

## **What made you want to join the RY board?**

I think RY fills an important gap in Aotearoa by offering support services to rainbow young people and providing a platform to make real change within the community and at government level too. I am incredibly passionate about supporting RY's mahi and enabling the organisation to grow sustainably. I want to be able to contribute in a way that is meaningful and valuable to the organisation, and am conscious that being financially sustainable has been a long-term goal for as long I've been around.

## **RainbowYOUTH is on a journey to proactively and respectfully uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. How would you contribute to this journey?**

This is such a great question! I think RY has done a great job of recognising where there are opportunities to be better and are thinking critically about how this should inform the organisation's strategic direction. As someone who identifies as Takatāpui, I want to ensure that RY is actively creating meaningful relationships, is honorable in its governance, has sustainable strategies for change, provides opportunities for partnership, shares power and resources, is held accountable, and is a champion for equitable outcomes for Māori

whānau.

**What particular skills do you think you have that would make you suitable for the RY board?**

My top priorities are to help RY explore a more formal fundraising approach and in turn, help the organisation to generate its own income, and to actively ensure that equitable outcomes for Māori are a priority. Similarly my previous involvement at RY at different levels will help to inform my decisions as I have a great understanding of the organisation, and the broader charity and rainbow community.