

# CLAUDIA IBBOTSON

*THEY/THEM, SHE/HER*

APPLYING FOR GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

I'm a 25-year-old queer Pākehā femme who lives and works in Te Whanganui-ā-Tara. I'm deeply passionate about queer activism both on-line and off-line, and I'm especially dedicated to improving outcomes for queer youth in Aotearoa. My full-time role is being a Policy Analyst in the Mental Health and Addiction directorate at the Ministry of Health. Late last year, I co-created the first Rainbow Network for the Ministry of Health, and we hosted a suite of events for our inaugural Pride Week this March. I am passionate about queer leadership, amplifying marginalised voices within the community, and setting an example for the queer leaders and learners of tomorrow.

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

Growing up queer and attending a Catholic all-girls school was a difficult personal experience and I had little to no support or access to information, so I feel very strongly about making sure today's youth are more than adequately supported.

I am a friendly, driven person who finds a way to get along with everyone I meet and work with, and I believe this, in addition to my passion for supporting young LGBTQIA+ folks would make me a great addition to the Board.

I am reliable, strategically-focused, outspoken and determined to help NZ families and whānau become equipped to support children and young people to bring their whole selves to all aspects of their lives.

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

I am deeply dedicated to listening to Māori (and Pasifika) in order to uplift their voices and lived experiences of marginalisation. I believe it is our duty as Pākehā to make space for the needs of indigenous peoples by proactively educating ourselves on what Te Tiriti requires of us, and going beyond this in order to contribute to hopefully achieving equity.

I am committed to never speaking for Māori, and to actively seeking engagement with Māori and putting their needs and opinions at the forefront of any and all work that concerns them.

I also recognise that colonisation brought violence and oppression to Māori beliefs and understandings of what we call "queerness" is, and that we have a lot of harm reduction to implement to try repair the impact of enforcing the gender binary and associated heteropatriarchal concepts upon Māori.

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

I am compassionate, results-focused, driven, meticulous and efficient. I am confident and comfortable amongst nearly anyone, and I am always keen to listen and to learn more. I have strong attention to detail, and have excellent leadership skills. I am a calm public speaker, and I am not shy about getting stuck into new work streams that may be challenging.