

HENRIETTA FINNEY WATERS

SHE/HER

APPLYING FOR GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

I am a year 11 at Otago Girls' High School. I am immensely passionate about all things related to activism. As such, I take every opportunity I can to fight for justice and create a better world in every way I (as a sixteen year old) can, whether that is through protests, literary expression, youth organisations and much else. On a slightly more human level, I enjoy reading, making self-targeted ginger jokes, drinking coffee and spending time emotionally bonding with my cat. The things I am passionate about are massively important to me and I am more than willing to put in any and all grunt work necessary to achieve what I am working towards.

What made you want to join the RY board?

The LGBTQ+ community has always been a subject that I have always seen as important. As I have figured out more about the person I am and the fact that the community is one that I identify with, this has only heightened this. Creating safe spaces, good representation and working to tackle the issues of prejudice have become issues that I have gained a more active role in pushing for within my school. Myself and a friend have been personally chosen to run the Otago Girl's QSA in 2021, and with that has come greater levels of direct engagement with the school especially regarding pride month and how the school can achieve a more LGBTQ+ friendly atmosphere. This is something that I am incredibly passionate about, and the chance to help in this sense on a far wider platform such as this is one that I value greatly. I would like to make a positive difference for young people in every way that I can, and I believe that this is a way in which I could do this.

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

As a young, pakeha person I understand that there are concepts that I may not have full understanding of in regards to this, but I understand the vitality of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all that is done in these settings. I have and continue to educate myself on this at every opportunity that I have. I have proactively undertaken projects that expand my knowledge, including essay studies of indigenous communities and how their culture is impacted disproportionately by a wide range of issues and studies of the treaty in my ranger unit. I understand the interconnectedness and subsequently how it is imperative that the treaty is upheld within rainbow issues and I hope that through this I will not only be able to contribute effectively and bring a youth perspective to this.

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

I would like to think of myself as a leader. I have held and maintain several youth

leadership and coordinator roles as well as significant debating experience that, over the past few years, have allowed me to develop related skills such as organisation, effective compromise, facilitation, strategic management and the ability to consider situations from multiple perspectives. All of this has allowed me to harness the aforementioned passion and turn that into a force of change and ability to produce significant outputs. I have the perspective of a young queer person and an understanding of what that means in today's world and in NZ due both to my personal experience and what I have taught myself out of curiosity and interest. However, what I believe that I am suitable for this role is the fact that I genuinely am passionate about the cause of RainbowYOUTH and willing to do all that I can to contribute to this.