



Kia Ora! My name is Tori Picton, I am 21 years old and born and raised in Tamaki Makaurau, Aotearoa. I am the oldest of four children. My pronouns are she/her and I identify as bisexual/queer. I very recently graduated from the University of Auckland where I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Media. I am of English, Maltese and Maori descent, with iwi affiliations in Ngati Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa which I am incredibly proud of! I would describe myself as compassionate, open-minded, caring, respectful and passionate. Writing is my passion, and I also enjoy reading, being in nature, learning about the world/people, binge watching TV shows and being around kind-hearted people!

What made you want to join the RY board?

Anybody who knows me, knows that I am incredibly vocally passionate about the rainbow community. Already, I put a lot of time, love and energy into raising awareness around LGBTQ+ issues and equality, supporting members, and researching and remembering the community's history, particularly intersectional experiences that I have not had to face due to my white, cisgender privilege and standpoint.

My ultimate goal in life is to do mahi that is fueled by my passion so that I can make a real difference, whether it is through creating and utilizing my skills as a writer, or any other way that I can help. The rainbow community is undoubtedly the cause closest to my heart.

As someone who perhaps doesn't 'look' queer/bi, not only would it be an incredibly validating opportunity for myself, I think that having me on the board will always to collapse some of the boxes and boundaries within our hugely diverse community, and give people (both those within the community and those not) an even more developed understanding on what it means to be 'queer enough.'

Being able to share the amazing RainbowYOUTH board platform with so many different people and voices where I know my effort, ideas and care are valued will be the start of an exciting journey for me- one that I wholeheartedly consider to be ko taku kaupapa/my purpose.

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

I will do all I can to honour and uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

As a member of the RainbowYOUTH board, I believe I can uphold the principles by listening

to Maori iwi and ensuring that I am not speaking for them or over them, but listening to their needs and perspectives and letting that inform my decisions and discussions. I will reconnect with my own culture by making a considerable effort to adopt Te Reo Maori wherever I can. Language is a powerful tool and we have a cultural responsibility to ensure that Te Reo is not forgotten.

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

Various writing skills
Organisation/planning skills
Critical thinking skills
People skills
Social media skills

I understand that not all of these skills are applicable or necessary for the board position, but I would love to be considered for the role as a co-chairperson, secretary or general board member.