

6 June 2018

To Mx Traylen

Response to your Official Information Act request

You wrote to us on 11 May 2018 asking what the Human Rights Commission (the Commission) was doing regarding the report *To Be Who I Am*.

The Commission is working to implement the recommendations in this report in numerous ways, described below;

- The Department of Corrections recently released a policy on the management of transgender prisoners. The Commission was involved in the development of this policy. You can read the policy on the Department of Corrections' website (www.corrections.govt.nz)
- With regards to involving trans people in decisions that affect them, an announcement was made on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia, and Intersex Discrimination (IDAHOBIT) on 17 May. The Commission initiated a commitment from the cross-Parliamentary rainbow network to meet with SOGISC (sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics) communities every six months, alternating between Wellington and Auckland. The link to the media release is here: <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1805/S00241/issues-faced-by-rainbow-community-need-ongoing-collaboration.htm>
- Our submission on the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Bill is available at https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/52SCGA_EVI_74854_768/f89b89d6b8078ee4f17e3673d99cfb038ab67868. This submission focused on the provisions of the Bill that set out the process for an individual to change the sex on their birth certificate
- Our submission made on the proposal to fund HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in December 2017 is attached as it is not on the website yet. This submission focused on the exclusion of trans men and non binary trans people from the original eligibility criteria proposed by PHARMAC. In March, PHARMAC agreed to widen the eligibility criteria to include all transgender people
- We are investigating maintaining the privacy of transgender people during pre-employment checks where the disclosure of previous names is necessary
- The Commission participates in the Northern Region trans health advisory group (<http://www.adhb.health.nz/about-us/our-community/transgender-health-services-for-the-northern-region/>), and has been involved in the development of the

Guidelines for Gender Affirming Healthcare for Gender Diverse and Transgender Young People and Adults in Aotearoa, New Zealand

- Since the To Be Who I Am report was released, we have held four roundtables focused on intersex rights: in [2009](#), [2010](#), [2016](#), and [2017](#). At present, the Commission participates in the Paediatric Society of New Zealand's Intersex Clinical Reference Group, which was established in January. The terms of reference of the group are contained in the Appendix of the 2017 Intersex Roundtable Report, hyperlinked above.

If you have any questions about this response please contact me. If you are unhappy with this response you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman's Office. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anneliese Boston', written in a cursive style.

Anneliese Boston
Legal Officer