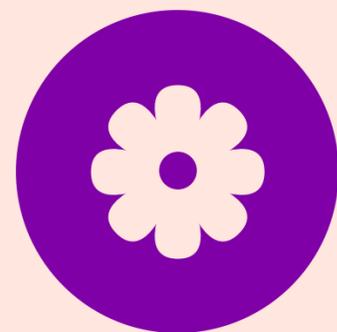




Affirming schooling for transgender kids

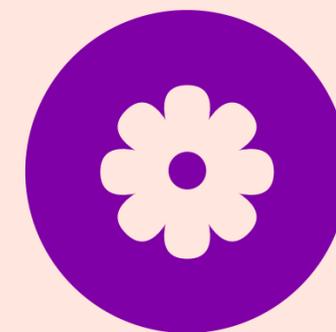
GENDER MINORITIES AOTEAROA

Who are transgender people?



What does transgender mean?

People who don't agree with the gender assigned at birth



What does cisgender mean?

People who do agree with the gender assigned at birth

Trans girls and transfeminine people



Trans girl or
trans woman

Describes a woman
or girl whose birth
doctor thought she
was a boy and
assigned her male at
birth (AMAB).



Transfem or
transfeminine

Is a broader term,
which includes
anyone who was
AMAB but is not male
- for example, a non-
binary person.



Pronouns

Commonly she, her,
hers, sometimes they,
them, theirs, or te reo
Māori pronoun ia



Like any girl

She can wear any
colour or type of
clothing, enjoy any
activity, and If spaces
are gendered, she
belongs with the girls.

Trans boys and transmasculine people



Trans boy or trans man

Describes a man or boy whose birth doctor thought he was a girl and assigned him female at birth (AFAB).



Transmasc transmasculine

Is a broader term, which means anyone who was AFAB but is not female - for example, a non-binary person.



Pronouns

Commonly he, him, his, sometimes they, them, theirs, or te reo Māori pronoun ia.



Like any boy

He can wear any colour or type of clothing, enjoy any activity, and if spaces are gendered, he belongs with the boys.

Non-Binary Genders

- Neither boys nor girls.
- May feel a bit of both, or not like either.
- Don't identify with the sex/gender assigned at birth.
- Pronouns may be they, them, ia, or...



Intersex people

Intersex describes people who

Anatomy, chromosomes, or hormones don't fit together within the ways we typically categorise male and female. This is a natural variation and not a medical problem.



Some are transgender, most are cisgender.



Born with intersex conditions.

Irawhiti takatāpui

Irawhiti, or irawhiti takatāpui, means transgender.

In Māori culture, gender diversity is traditionally viewed as normal, though colonisation has disrupted this in part.

Some of the more traditional Māori genders, which still exist today, include ira tangata wahine, or trans woman, ira tangata tāne, or trans man, and ira tāhūrua-kore, or non-binary trans people.

Te reo Māori has only one third-person singular pronoun, which is "ia". There is no "he" or "she" in Māori language.

"When we say 'let kids be kids', that applies to everyone. Let trans kids be trans kids" — Ada



GENDER MINORITIES AOTEAROA

Irawhiti Takatāpui, Transgender, & Intersex NZ

Transgender youth

Three quarters (73%) of transgender rangatahi are aware they're trans before the age of 14.

Just 64% of transgender rangatahi say at least one of their parents cared about them “a lot”, vs. 94% of cis students.

70% trans students say that they felt part of their school, and 62% have taken part in activities to help others in their schools and communities in the past year.

Data from Youth19 study of 7,721 secondary school students in Aotearoa.

Transgender youth

Two thirds of trans students "come out" while at school, but of those who do, only a third feel safe to come out to parents.

Only 32% of trans students say they always feel safe in their neighbourhood, vs 58% cis students.

It's important to support a trans person who has no family support.

Data from Youth19 study of 7,721 secondary school students in Aotearoa.

Rainbow rangatahi Māori

"Most Rainbow rangatahi Māori reported positive family and school environments, high rates of volunteering and moderate or good health.

"However, members of this group also reported major inequities compared to others, including high food and housing insecurity, poor healthcare access, and high discrimination by healthcare providers. They reported inequities in feeling part of their school and feeling safe at school, and high levels of mental health concerns.

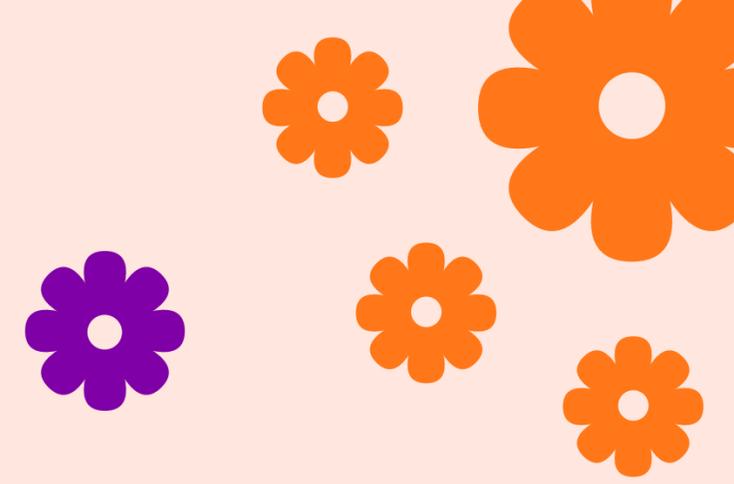
Overall, they reported more challenges than members of comparison groups.

Youth19 study of 7,721 secondary school students in Aotearoa.

Barriers to education

- Violence: 2x more likely to experience violence or be in a serious fight before leaving high school.
- Bullying: one in five experience weekly bullying, many experience social exclusion.
- Anxiety and mental health: 40% had significant depressive symptoms, nearly 50% self-harmed in last 12 months, one in five attempted suicide
- Education doesn't include them (books, sex education, history, social studies, literature)

Ideas for solutions



- Policy - develop measurable strategies, initiate, evaluate.
- Respect - centre dignity, humanity, and respect.
- Education - talk with trans advocates, reading, resources.
- Sensitivity - understand the issues. Try our free online training course.
- Self-determination - hear the experiences of trans students, encourage participation in decision making.

Affirming practices

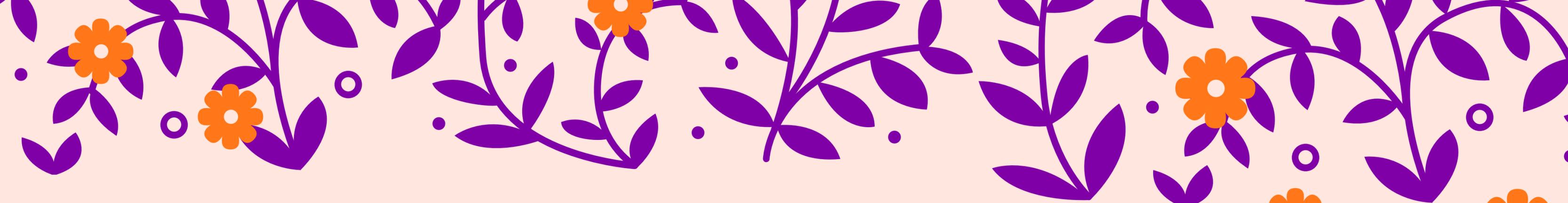
Practices that are based on affirming a child's own sense of gender strengthen the child's self-esteem and sense of self worth.

Practices that uphold the child's dignity, bodily autonomy, and creative expression are especially important.

Dress up play, imagination play, games, sports, and curriculum can all be done in ways that are affirming.

In the classroom

- Language – "*boys and girls*," vs "*friends*" or "*children*", pronouns, names, binaries.
- Gender stereotypes – girls can do anything, boys can do anything, non-binary people can do anything.
- Kids may bring stereotypes to school, but teachers can set the tone.
- Segregation – "*boys vs girls*," boy then girl seating, singling out trans kids. Find creative ways to group – who had a hot breakfast? Spongebob or Frozen?



Supporting parents

- Support parents by supporting their child, providing info, talking.
- Let them know how you can do this - specific examples, policy etc.
- Refer whānau to trans orgs like Gender Minorities Aotearoa, and rainbow orgs such as InsideOUT or RainbowYOUTH.
- Help with unsupportive whānau or friends - where to put blame for social stigma and difficulties, eg. with bullies or bad public policy, not with the trans child.
- Often parents benefit from talking with trans adults, who were once trans kids themselves.

“When a baby is born, we love, care for, and support that baby regardless of their gender. Let’s remember to awhi those babies at 7 years old, at 14, at 21. Trans, intersex, and irawhiti takatāpui are taonga forever” — Ahi





Find out more - genderminorities.com

See our youth and whānau resources, online training courses, and more.

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Irāwhiti Takatāpui, Transgender, & Intersex NZ

