

Media Release
06/04/09
Rainbow Youth

"Rainbow Youth want your stories of growing up queer!"

Rainbow Youth are looking for stories written by young people about their experience of growing up queer to be included in a new awareness campaign due to launch in the second half of 2009.

We are hoping to have a series of billboards erected in the Auckland area highlighting that homophobia and transphobia are forms of bullying that is all too common in New Zealand secondary schools.

These billboards will compliment a new area of our website that will include your stories of identifying as queer at high school and your experiences [positive or negative].

"We're looking for someone who's experienced transphobia and/or homophobia at school and who is comfortable to share this with New Zealand through our website and possibly a print resource" explains Executive Director Thomas Hamilton.

If you are thinking about contributing your story please consider these things:

- Are you out?
- Would you be ok with people recognising you and being associated with Rainbow Youth?
- Are you comfortable talking about your sexuality and/or gender identity and/or experience of transphobia and/or homophobia?

If you've said yes to these you might be just the person we are looking for!

We would like you to write a brief story [no more than 300 words or less] of your experience of growing up queer [or GLBTTFIQ].

Ideas include:

- Whether or not you've experienced trans/homophobia [or homophobia-phobia].
- How you became involved with Rainbow Youth or how Rainbow Youth supported you.
- What being queer at your high school was like?

To enter please submit your story to: billboards@rainbowyouth.org.nz.

Any story that is selected to be published will be the property of Rainbow Youth and may be incorporated in other media or print beyond this project scope.

If you have experienced transphobia and/or homophobia and would like further support, contact Outline on 0800 OUTLINE or Youthline on 0800 YOUTHLINE.

Please note that Rainbow Youth offers peer social support groups and not one to one counselling opportunities.

Thomas Hamilton - Executive Director

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