

I choose the issue of LGBTQ+ rights because it is a huge problem in Aotearoa and a lot of the rest of the world. It is wrong for someone to be treated differently because of their sexuality or gender identity. I choose to support Rainbow Youth because they are a very inclusive organisation that helps people from all elements of the LGBTQ+ community and I wanted our social action to be inclusive too. ①

I wanted to get involved in this issue because I had heard about people coming out at school and some of them were worried that it would affect the way they were treated. ①

In a study based in New Zealand in 2012, 58% of LGBTI students had been afraid that someone would hurt or bother them at school. It also found that of those students who have been bullied, 46% believed they were bullied because they were gay or because people thought they were gay. This really surprised me because I thought New Zealand was really accepting. I hoped that by raising awareness about LGBTQ+ issues I could reduce some of this fear in my school. ①

I think I did really well in this social action and maintained my focus throughout the process. I felt I kept other people focused by reminding them of the importance of this issue and how it affects so many people we know and care about. ②

By getting a speaker in from Rainbow Youth I helped educate people about LGBTQ+ rights and I learnt a lot from them as well. By organising an expert to talk to us it was a lot more effective than if we spoke to people about the issue because they knew so much more than us, they also spoke a lot confidently so everyone listened. ②

I think I did really well when organising the speaker, it was intimidating having to contact a big organisation like Rainbow Youth, as I didn't know if they cared about our action or if they would want to help us. I made sure I was really polite in my emails and asked my teacher to check them before I sent it to Rainbow Youth. ②

If I was to make one change to what I did, I would have the speaker in at assembly rather than just our Social Studies class