

16 July 2018

To Amanda Ashley

Response to your Official Information Act request

You wrote to us on 21 June 2018 asking if there was something in the Human Rights Act that covers “Gay conversion” therapy and if there was any intent to change the Human Rights Act to explicitly ban "Gay Conversion" therapy.

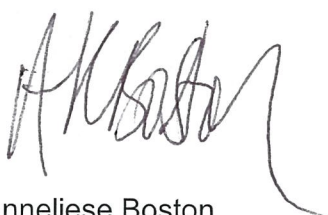
There are no specific legislative provisions prohibiting conversion therapy in New Zealand, but in our view it is difficult to see how any health care provider could offer it in a manner that complies with legal, ethical, or professional standards.

We are not aware of any intention on the part of the Government to amend the Human Rights Act to prohibit “Gay conversion” therapy. The Human Rights Act is administered by the Ministry of Justice. You may like to contact the Ministry or the Minister of Justice with your query.

The Commission considers the practice to be harmful and would support moves to prohibit it.

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



Anneliese Boston
Legal Officer