

28/05/2022

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe,

This submission is being made by the Christchurch Youth Council (CYC) as a part of our kaupapa, which aims to advocate for and strengthen youth voices, especially in local decision making.

Please be aware that the content of this submission is based on the discussions we had internally with our membership and from responses on social media. We are not representative of all of the young people in Christchurch. Young people in Christchurch may disagree with the statements made throughout this submission, we would expect and value this as no two people have the same voice or opinion.

We did a short informal social media survey to gain some information from other rangatahi. This was responded to by 105 people, almost all of whom were young people (aged between 12 and 24). From our online social media polling we found that 58% of the respondents thought that the school health programme was flawed; while 42% thought that the school health programme was good. 70% thought that consent was covered in their health programmes while 30% did not. We found around 35% of students found health class to be current, updated and engaging. 32% of schools covered non-hetero relationships well 68% did not. With students finding health class to be disengaging and boring. One student said “My school chose to not cover consent and sexual assault in health class because it was too sensitive a topic to cover.”

We believe that improvements could be made in contraceptive and protection lessons, we received feedback from young people that this was particularly lacking in some religious schools and should be improved. More focus on different types of relationships and expanding the conversation around consent was important and lacking in many aspects. Teaching about safe sex in more than just the hetero-normative way and including the conversation around LGBTQIA+ sex and relationships. Teaching more about female and male anatomy, (especially female.) Teaching more about sexuality and gender identity in a positive format. Talking around other areas of health like general health, sleep, social media, positive relationships, domestic violence and mental health.

We also feel that students should be made aware of other places they can receive sexual health advice, and consultations. This information should be provided by school health professionals, nurses or guidance counselors. It should be made clear to the students where they can go, for what, and what the teacher or health professionals' responsibility is in terms of notifying caregivers.

We believe that providing a updated relationship, sexuality and consent health programme fits into the Christchurch Youth Action Plans in the following sectors:

#### 2.1 Mental and Physical Health

Set up and maintain mental health services.  
Promote the confidentiality of health services.

#### 2.2 Sexual Health

Additional sex education in schools.  
Young people under 16 are able to access sexual health support.  
Increase the numbers of services available, and promote the existing facilities where sexual health support is available for those over 21

#### 6.2.3 Representation and wellbeing



CHRISTCHURCH  
YOUTH COUNCIL  
RUNAKA TAIOHI O  
ŌTAUTAHI

Lack of understanding of LGBTQI+ and support for young people to be who they are.

#### 7.2.1 Education System

Education is not LGBTQI+ friendly. A

Improve LGBTQI+ equality in co-ed and single sex schools to improve their wellbeing and chances for a better education.

Help and educate school communities to be more inclusive and run events e.g. Pride Week.

The Christchurch Youth Council would like to thank the Youth Parliament for 2022 for their attention to the unique interests of young people in the city and their relevance to the Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Ngā mihi nui,

Lily Saunders (Executive Member) the Christchurch Youth Council Executive Committee

Christchurch Youth Council  
% Christchurch Community House  
301 Tuam Street, City Centre  
Christchurch 8011

Email: [chcyouthcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:chcyouthcouncil@gmail.com)

Phone: Kate Burgess - Coordinator, 0220994409