

Takatāpui, Transgender, and Intersex Health

Ahi Wi-Hongi

Gender Minorities Aotearoa
New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective



Who are transgender people?

What does trans mean?

Trans as an umbrella

Trans as a primary identity



Trans women and Transfeminine people

Trans woman describes a woman whose birth doctor thought she was a boy and assigned her male at birth

Transfeminine is a more inclusive term

Pronouns: She/her possibly others;
they/them/ia



Trans men and Transmasculine people

Trans man describes a man whose birth doctor thought he was a girl and assigned him female at birth

Transmasculine is a more inclusive term

Pronouns: He/him/ possibly others;
they/them/ia



Non Binary Genders

Neither men nor women

Don't identify with birth assigned gender

Pronouns may be they/them/ia or ...



What does Intersex mean?

Intersex describes people whose anatomy, chromosomes, hormone ranges are outside of the perceived Male/Female sex binary

Born with intersex conditions

Transgender?



Takataapui

Te Reo Maori term, often used to roughly mean
"rainbow person" or "rainbow community"

Who is takatāpui about?

Specific to Māori or all LGBTQI+ people?



Barriers to Health

Widespread discrimination & lack of resources

Stigma: naughty, lazy, bad decisions

Stigmatising language in the clinic – genitals,
'biological', etc

Health professionals may lack sensitivity, knowledge
of needs

Healthcare anxiety/mental health



Ideas for solutions

Cost and accessibility

Reminder text

Not 'telling people off'; acknowledging difficulty

Ongoing professional development & sensitivity training



In the clinic

Language – *pronouns, genitals, assigned at birth*

Opinions – *no personal opinions, keep it professional*

Clarity – *be clear about what is needed and why*

Professionalism – *treat trans patients with as much professionalism as you would non-trans patients*

Professional development – *HRT, referrals*



Questions from clinicians

Q: What if I need to ask whether they have a penis or a vagina?

A: Just don't.

If you need to know which swabs to use, ask whether they need oral, anal, vaginal or urethral swabs.



Questions from clinicians

Q: How do I ask what direction the patients transition is?

Q: What should I say instead of 'used to be a girl or boy'?

Q: What should I say instead of MtF or FtM?



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