



## NEW ZEALAND TRAVEL ADVICE FOR LGBTQ+ PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND STAFF

All travellers face risks overseas. Risks can be higher for travellers who are gay, lesbian or queer/questioning, or have a diverse gender identity (trans, non-binary or genderqueer).

This information has been prepared for LGBTQ+ players, officials and staff attending training and events in New Zealand.

### BE PREPARED

While the New South Wales Rugby League (NSWRL) has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of direct and indirect homophobia, biphobia and transphobia they are not able to control all that happens outside controlled environments during international tours.

In the broader community, New Zealand is rated 16th in the world for LGBTQ+ inclusion and respect. The equality index ([www.equaldex.com](http://www.equaldex.com)) rated New Zealand 87/100 for legal protections – comparable to Australia's score of 90/100. New Zealand records a slightly higher level of support in the Public Opinion Index (64/100 to 62/100)

New Zealand laws prohibit the discrimination or harassment of gay, lesbian, bisexual or queer visitors. Both transgender and non-binary gender identities are legally recognised and protected in New Zealand. Support for transgender discrimination protections ranked #1 globally.

New Zealand recognises same-sex relationships and preserves Australian rights such as healthcare visitation, accommodation bookings and next-of-kin privileges.

*NOTE: This advice does not consider free associated territories within the Realm of New Zealand (Tokelau, Niue and the Cook Islands).*

### BE SMART

As with any community, levels of acceptance, tolerance and inclusion will vary. Be cautious with public displays of affection in conservative spaces, as this could still lead to verbal abuse and assault. If you intend to party in New Zealand, speak to other LGBTQ+ travellers before you go to get advice. Ensure that your behaviour complies with your club and NSWRL/[NRL's Codes of Conduct](#).

Be cautious of new friendships, particularly those made online or using apps. LGBTQ+ travellers can be targeted by criminals, as the rates of reporting these types of offences are generally lower due to perceived stigma and shame.

## BE READY

Recognising the compounding impact of other diverse identities, including your race, religion, age, mental health and disability, is important. The SmartTraveller website ([smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au)) provides essential information about how these intersecting identities may bring their own risks.

If you need help (Police/Fire/Ambulance), the Emergency phone number in New Zealand is 111. Your insurer will also have a 24/7 emergency contact. Ensure you have this saved on your mobile phone.

**The Australian High Commission may be able to help in certain situations:**

**Australian High Commission (Wellington)**  
**72-76 Hobson Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011**  
**Email:** [consular.wellington@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.wellington@dfat.gov.au)  
**Phone:** 04 473 6411

**Australian Consulate-General (Auckland)**  
**Level 7 HSBC Tower 188 Quay Street, Auckland, 1010**  
**Email:** [AucklandConsular@austrade.gov.au](mailto:AucklandConsular@austrade.gov.au)  
**Telephone:** 09 921 8800

**You can also contact the Australian Government Consular Care 24-hour helpline in an emergency:**

**+61 2 6261 3305**

## BE SUPPORTED

Your team support staff, including your coaches and officials, are available if you would like to have a confidential conversation at any time.

Within New Zealand, OUTLine ([www.outline.org.nz](http://www.outline.org.nz)) provide free and confidential counselling every evening between 6pm and 9pm (0800 OUTLINE / 0800 688 5463). Alternately, Lifeline (0800 543 354) offer 24/7 support from health professionals and trained volunteers.

This fact sheet has been prepared in collaboration with Pride in Sport.  
[www.prideinsport.com.au](http://www.prideinsport.com.au)