

## **MEDIA RELEASE: THE NEW ZEALAND RAINBOW EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**24 October 2025, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

### **Jackpot for Inclusion: SkyCity Entertainment Group wins Top Honour at NZ Rainbow Excellence Awards 2025**

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Pride Pledge New Zealand Rainbow Excellence Awards were celebrated with glitz and glamour this evening under the Rainbow Tower at SkyCity Auckland with the hosts taking out the top honour – The Pride Pledge Supreme Award.

More than 350 people gathered to recognise the outstanding work being led by our organisations and rainbow communities throughout New Zealand. Despite a challenging economic and political climate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, this year's awards were the biggest yet, according to Pride Pledge Director Martin King, and show that kiwi companies' commitments to being welcoming for everyone are deep and are of strategic significance for employee wellbeing.

"Many of our biggest brands have been celebrated alongside SkyCity including Air New Zealand, Les Mills International, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, Fletcher Living, Auckland Council and more," stated King.

"Rainbow Inclusion is vital for Aotearoa, New Zealand Inc, not just for individual organisations. These businesses understand the bigger picture of making our workplaces the most inclusive in the world, both for human and commercial imperatives. This is a vision we can achieve, and we have to do this collectively and the Rainbow Awards brings us together to celebrate progress along the journey."

SkyCity's Pride Pledge Supreme Award victory was supported by winning The Pride Network of The Year Award and The Progress Award. These showcased more than a decade of Rainbow Inclusion work which culminated in SkyCity Entertainment Group being the first organisation in New Zealand to receive the new Pride Pledge Certification standard earlier this year.

SkyCity CEO Jason Walbridge says "It's an honour for SkyCity to be recognised at the 2025 Rainbow Excellence Awards. Better never stops, and these wins are a reminder of how far we've come together. Progress isn't a finish line, it's something we work on every day. We can't wait to keep this journey going, making sure everyone feels welcome, seen, and celebrated. We're stronger together when everyone belongs"

The New Zealand Rainbow Excellence Awards are produced and sponsored by Pride Pledge and celebrate workplace leadership, innovation and best practice by organisations committed to Rainbow (LGBTQIAP+) Diversity & Inclusion. The Awards are also proudly sponsored by Air

New Zealand, ASB Bank, Chorus, Les Mills International, New Zealand Rugby, Z Energy and SkyCity.

### Complete list of all category winners

Organisation Name	Category	
Pride Pledge Certified Executive Leadership Award	Winner	<b>Faye Restall, Les Mills International</b>
The Chorus Ambassadorship Award	Winner	<b>Cam Palmer, Air New Zealand</b>
	Highly Commended	<b>Dannielle Lally, Les Mills International</b>
	Highly Commended	<b>Sean Park, Fletcher Living</b>
The Pride Pledge, Pride Network of The Year Award	Winner	<b>SkyCity Entertainment Group</b>
The New Zealand Rugby Innovation Award	Winner	<b>Auckland Council &amp; The Joyful Movement</b>
The Pride Pledge SME Rainbow Inclusivity Award	Winner	<b>Fletcher Living</b>
The ASB Emerging Award	Winner	<b>Fisher &amp; Paykel Healthcare</b>
	Highly Commended	<b>Pito Mata Consulting Ltd</b>
The Pride Pledge Non-Commercial Sector Award	Winner	<b>Pito Mata Consulting</b>
The Pride Pledge Certified Progress Award	Winner	<b>SkyCity Entertainment Group</b>
The SkyCity Community and Advocacy Award	Winner	<b>Indian Origin Pride</b>
The Pride Pledge Supreme Award	Winner	<b>SkyCity Entertainment Group</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	<b>Air New Zealand</b>
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	<b>Fletcher Living</b>

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