MEDIA RELEASE: THE NEW ZEALAND RAINBOW EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

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Rainbow Safety and Inclusion soars to new altitudes – Air New Zealand Takes Supreme Award!

The 8th Annual Pride Pledge New Zealand Rainbow Excellence Awards were celebrated under the Rainbow Sky Tower at SkyCity Auckland tonight, with more than 300 rainbow champions, advocates and allies gathering to celebrate organisations and workplaces shaping a more inclusive Aotearoa.

Air New Zealand was the 2026 Pride Pledge Supreme Award Winner with judges describing the airline's submission as "industry-shaping, deeply authentic, and structurally embedded", acknowledging a long term multi-year strategic commitment to rainbow safety, staff capability, customer experience, and community partnership with their bold ambition to become the safest airline in the world for rainbow travellers.

In addition to Air New Zealand setting a new aspirational standard on the global stage, many of our biggest and most loved brands were also celebrated including Kiwibank, AA Insurance, and Fonterra. Martin King, Director of Pride Pledge, added that, "alongside some of our larger organisations, it was great to see grass-roots charities deeply committed to safer and more inclusive communities everyday with Moana Vā, Navigators of Pacific Pride taking home two awards,"

Martin King states that despite ongoing political and economic pressures, organisations entering the awards and showing up continue to demonstrate that Rainbow Inclusion is vital for Aotearoa. These organisations understand that Diversity does not thrive without an inclusive culture and progressive policies. "Rainbow Inclusion is good for everyone! A workplace that celebrated Diversity, addressees inequity, and supports wellbeing is a workplace that cares about people and the communities they operate in"

Air New Zealand's Supreme Award victory was supported by winning The Pride Network of The Year Award, The Impact Awards and The Progress Award. These showcased more than a decade of dedicated Rainbow Inclusion and Pride Network focus at the airline that has recently been accelerate through becoming Pride Pledge Certified.

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

The complete list of all category winners

Organisation Name	Category	
Pride Pledge Certified Executive Leadership Award	Winner	**Mark Aue, CEO, Chorus**
The Chorus Ambassadorship Award	Winner Highly Commended Highly Commended	**Stephen Grey, AA Insurance** **Aziz Al Sa'afin, TVNZ** **Lisa Rooney, Ginger's Pop-Ups**
The Pride Pledge, Pride Network of The Year Award	Winner Highly Commended	**Air New Zealand** **AA Insurance**
The New Zealand Rugby Innovation Award	Winner	**Kiwibank**
The ASB Emerging Award	Winner Highly Commended	**Fonterra** **Port of Auckland**
The Pride Pledge Non-Commercial Sector Award	Winner Highly Commended	**Moana Vā, Navigators of Pacific Pride** **Cross Agency Rainbow Network (CARN)**
The Pride Pledge Certified Progress Award	Winner Highly Commended	**Air New Zealand** **Kiwibank**
The Impact Award *supported by The Gender Affirmation Policy Register*	Winner Highly Commended	**Air New Zealand** **Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland**
The SkyCity Community and Advocacy Award	Winner Highly Commended	**Moana Vā, Navigators of Pacific Pride** **Ginger's Pop-Ups**
The Pride Pledge Supreme Award	Winner 2nd Place 3rd Place	**Air New Zealand** **Moana Vā, Navigators of Pacific Pride** **Ginger's Pop-Ups**

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