

MEDIA RELEASE: THE NEW ZEALAND RAINBOW EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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Highest accolades go to *Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa*, Massey University at The 2024 Rainbow Excellence Awards

The 2024 New Zealand Rainbow Excellence Awards once again had a competitive line up of New Zealand's leading organisations and brands. The 6th annual awards ceremony was held this evening in Auckland with *Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa, Massey University* taking home the Partners Life Supreme Award along with the Simpson Grierson Impact Award. Booking.com earned an impressive overall second place and Les Mills International hot on their heels in 3rd place for their second year.

The NZ Rainbow Excellence Awards now in their 6th year celebrate workplace leadership, innovation and best practice by organisations committed to rainbow Diversity & Inclusion and is now a premier Diversity & Inclusion celebration each year. Martin King, Director of Pride Pledge and The Awards states, "Despite the economic climate, the awards received a record number of entries from wide ranging industries and the gala dinner was a sell-out success yet again showing a deep and strengthening commitment for rainbow inclusion in Aotearoa."

Massey's Diversity & Inclusion Advisor Connor McLeod says "*Witnessing hundreds of rainbow people come together, the design and delivery of services specific to us, and the impacts of the work of our students in their paid roles, has presented a radical shift to the way Massey is perceived amongst rainbow and takatāpui students and staff.*"

The win by Massey University reflects their strategic approach to rainbow and takatāpui wellbeing as a multi-year process covering many facets of academic life including the launch of their own Rainbow Orientation in 2023. The Orientation offered a range of activities including lunches, karaoke nights, board and video game tournaments, arts and crafts, jewellery making, flag making, and even live piercing bringing more than 600 students together from three campuses.

Martin King says that all the finalists and winners are making a difference when it comes to Rainbow inclusion in our organisations and are committed to a better tomorrow for our rainbow communities. Large organisations such as Massey University and many other winners can truly make a difference outside the walls of their offices and into our communities for younger generations to come.

Complete list of all category winners

Organisation Name	Category	
Elliot Smith, Kiwibank	Pride Pledge Certified Executive Leadership Award	Winner
Josephine Graham, Tonkin + Taylor	The Chorus Ambassadorship Award	Winner
Les Mills International	The Pride Pledge, Pride Network of The Year Award	Winner
ASB Bank	The Pride Pledge Certified Innovation Award	Winner
Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University	The Simpson Grierson Impact Award	Winner
Tū Ora Compass Health	The Z Energy SME Rainbow Inclusivity Award	Winner
Tonkin + Taylor	The ASB Emerging Award	Winner
Booking.com	The Les Mills Representation in Marketing Award	Winner
Cross Agency Rainbow Network (CARN)	The Pride Pledge Non-Commercial Sector Award	Winner
Les Mills International	The Pullman Progress Award	Winner
Pacific Rainbow Games Trust	The SkyCity Community and Advocacy Award	Winner
Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University	Partners Life Supreme Award	Winner
Booking.com Les Mills International		2 nd Place 3 rd Place

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