



**christian
camping**
NEW ZEALAND

Transgender information (CCNZ research)

There are no NZ statistics on how many transgender youth there are currently in New Zealand. America has a number of transgender camps running. Some camps let the youth sleep in the cabins of the gender they identify with or do not split cabins by gender and do it all by age. All toilets are in separate cubicles so that there is privacy. Currently all the information that I was able to find was published by the Transgender community. There is currently no other side to the debate. I have pulled the best information I could find on how to move forward with camping in this area but there was not much helpful information out there. Here is some of the helpful information that I did find. This has been copy and pasted from https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/4014/2378/4858/HRC_A_Trans_SupportStudentV3.pdf. The other sites I have looked have said the same thing. This is how they suggest that schools should look after trans students and I assume camps are similar to this.

“Who should trans students share a room with on school camp?”

If they wish, trans girls should be able to share a room with other girls, and trans boys share with other male students. It can be helpful if the trans student is able to share a room with friend/s, particularly with the consent of each child’s parent/s. If there are concerns about safety for any of the students, consider having a staff member in the room. If you have smaller or private rooms available for students with specific needs, consider also making these available for trans students.”¹

“What about sports uniforms or swimming costumes?”

Many trans students will use clothes, bindings and other aids to make their body more closely match their gender identity. These aids are hard to conceal if a trans student is required to wear a close fitting sports uniform or swimming costume. Loose fitting unisex options can be a better alternative. For swimming, this includes rash suits, rash shirts and longer swimming shorts. Body discomfort is common for trans students and should be acknowledged. Some trans students may be very distressed about swimming because a wet swimming costume is too revealing. In these instances, the possibility of being excused from swimming should be discussed with the student and the student’s parents/ guardian.”²

“What changing area should trans students use?”

Trans students should have the choice of using the changing area that matches their gender identify. Many trans students will feel vulnerable having to change clothes in front of other students. Creating a private area in the changing rooms can be very useful for trans students. This might involve adding a curtain or a cubicle door. Other options include allowing trans students to use a unisex, disability or staff toilet as a changing area.”³

“What about sex-segregated activities at school?”

¹ https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/4014/2378/4858/HRC_A_Trans_SupportStudentV3.pdf

² https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/4014/2378/4858/HRC_A_Trans_SupportStudentV3.pdf

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If males and females are separated for school classes or activities, trans students should be allowed to participate in the group that matches their gender identity. Also consider holding a mixed session open to any students. This is likely to be the easiest option for those trans students who do not identify and/or pass as solely male or female.”⁴

“What toilets should trans students use?”

Trans students should have the choice of using a toilet that matches their gender identify. This can be an important way to support a trans student’s sense of identity and wellbeing. For example, fa’afafine, whakawāhine or male-to-female (MtF) trans girls identifying as female should be able to use the female toilets, if that is their preference. A unisex or disability toilet can be a good alternative for a trans student. Other options include using toilets in a sick bay/health centre or the staff toilets. Some other students may initially be uncomfortable sharing toilets with a trans person. It can help to explain that privacy and safety are important for all students when using bathroom facilities, and that any form of harassment will not be tolerated. If these students are still uncomfortable about using the same toilet blocks as trans students, they could also be offered the use of a unisex or disability toilet.”⁵

“Who needs to know that a trans student is enrolled at the school?”

The school principal, school counsellor and a trans student’s teachers should be aware of the student’s gender identity. This enables staff to address any specific gender identity issues that may arise at school. In some schools it may be appropriate for more staff to know that a student is trans. However, any such decisions should recognise the student’s right to privacy. It is not appropriate for a school to disclose a trans student’s gender identity to other students and their families, except with the trans student’s permission.”⁶

⁴ https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/4014/2378/4858/HRC_A_Trans_SupportStudentV3.pdf

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CCCA - Transgender Considerations

1. Does the camp have a definition of transgender? Does it match the definition of the applicant? Does the camp have any statement in their documents stating they believe gender is ordained of God? If so, your stance can begin here.
2. Does the person THINK they were born the wrong sex and wants to be in the opposite sex cabin? Or, has some type of treatment begun? What stage of 'change' has occurred?
3. What do the legal documents say as to the person's gender (ie. birth certificate or any altered document) If they say the opposite gender of the claimant then you have legal grounds to say they would be in this cabin.
4. How have other organizations handled the claim? School or any place where sexual orientation is required (ie. sport team)
5. Assess the attitude of the parents. Are they demanding, belligerent, cooperative, or confused. This gives you grounds to make an 'individual' decision while setting the group response in place. Are they open to a special housing arrangement, bathrooms. Are they willing to meet the other rules of camp?
6. Assess the camp's attitude on transgender. You will have to define camp (board, director, permanent staff, counselors, others). Who is the major decision maker?
7. Assess the facility. Do you have transgender options? Bathrooms, housing?
8. Assess the program. What will be the awkward moments?
9. Who are others who would or should be notified. ie. parents of kids in cabin, all parents, the kids, people on grounds.
10. It is okay to say, "we are not properly equipped to handle this special need". If so, make sure you have in place the reasons you are not equipped.
11. Make sure (this should probably be #1) you have a prayer team in place.
12. Think prayerfully, lovingly and intelligently
 - Prayerfully---we seek God's wisdom and direction first
 - Lovingly---we desire that all would hear the good news of Jesus Christ
 - Intelligently---this decision affects others, there is an individual AND group dynamic involved