

The Conversion Therapy Bill



Grace Vineyard Church and the Vineyard Movement of Aotearoa NZ are **NOT opposing the Conversion Therapy Bill.**

We are simply asking for **one small amendment**, which will ensure protection for parents, friends, churches, counsellors and medical professionals.

The amendment we are seeking says,

“Conversion practice does not include— respectful and open discussions regarding sexuality and gender, and advice, guidance, prayer, or support given to anyone by anyone else including parents, family members, friends, counsellors, religious leaders, or health professionals, when such advice or support is requested, and is respectful and non-coercive”.

We feel this amendment is necessary, because various legal opinions state the Bill is not clear what is legal and what is not. Also the Minister of Justice Kris Faafoi and the Prime Minister have been unable to articulate clearly where boundaries lie.

This amendment is necessary for clarity so whānau, friends and church families can legally continue to support LGBTQIA+ people through respectful conversation and prayer.

We have a long history in our Movement of welcoming everyone and seeking to love and bless all who come.

Most of our churches have members of the LGBTQIA+ community who, as well as being our friends, are often our children, parents or relatives. Sexuality and gender can be complicated and sensitive issues and we always desire to be a loving family to all who come.

Our mission is to help people find and follow Jesus and every person is precious to Him and welcome to come on this journey with us.

- 1. We disavow any pastoral or counselling practices with regard to gay or transgender people (or anyone else) that are uninvited, coercive, unloving, harsh, or disrespecting of people’s freedoms.**
- 2. We agree that pastoral counselling and interaction should always be compassionate, gentle, and respectful of everyone’s personal worth, dignity, and freewill.**

Because we love the members of the LGBTQIA+ Community, we are committed to offer support, counselling, prayer and spiritual wisdom to all who ask us, and that is why we want an amendment in the Bill, to continue to allow us to minister to people who ask us for help.

With love,

David MacGregor and the Grace Vineyard Leadership Team.