



New Zealand
Programme

Small Grants Fund Recipient 2006

Waikato Queer Youth Diversity Group, Hamilton, Waikato

Grant: \$4000.00.

The Waikato Queer Youth Diversity Group officially launched in September 2005 aims to provide a safe and accepting environment for children and young people regardless of their sexual or gender identity. Queer is a reclaimed word that is used to collectively describe gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, takata, fa'afafine and intersex identities.

Waikato Queer Youth Diversity Group is committed to challenging homophobia, minimising the sense of isolation, providing resources for young people to meet and offering support services for Queer Youth in the Waikato region. The organisation also seeks to establish support groups in order to reduce mental health problems such as suicide and depression whose frequency is shown to be higher amongst non-heterosexual students by the 2001 Auckland University Adolescent Health Research Group report and a recent Otago University of Christchurch School of Medicine study.

Funding from the Small Grants Fund will enable this organisation to develop a programme that has an educational and social aspect which is fun and inclusive of all young people. Waikato Queer Youth Diversity Group will develop the programme with and in consultation with young people and provide training for volunteers to support other queer young people and/or those struggling with sexual identity.

Save the Children are happy to support this new initiative in the Waikato in line with the Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that urges protection against discrimination on the basis of colour, sex or religion.

