



Ref: 228678

Monday, 6 May 2024

Bob McCoskrie

By email to bob@familyfirst.org.nz

Tēnā koe Bob

Response to your request for Official Information

On 7 April 2024, you requested information from Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | Human Rights Commission (“the Commission”) under the Official Information Act 1982 (“OIA”). Please find the responses under each of your requests 1 – 12 below.

1. Number of **complaints and enquiries** that have come into the service since its formation, up until the 2nd anniversary (19 February 2024) Day after Royal Assent. (Yes I’m aware that your service did not come into effect until 6 months after that).

2. How many are **enquiries**? What are the nature of the enquiries?

In response to your questions 1-2 seeking the number and nature of enquiries and complaints the Commission has received, as at 19 February 2024, we had received 34 enquiries and complaints relating to conversion practices, broken down as follows:

- Twelve are complaints about possible conversion practices happening to the complainants
- Five are complaints about possible conversion practices happening to other people
- Four are requests for information
- Seven are requests for resources
- Five are complaints about the legislation
- One is unclear.

Overall, and as set out in our previous communication with you, the Commission continues to be pleased to see a broad spectrum of enquiries and complaints represented to date, especially given some of the barriers that can prevent complainants from contacting us. To date, no enquiries have been made about non-affirming medical care.

Of the 17 complaints about possible conversion practices, eight were about activities that happened before 18 August 2022 when the CP Act fully came into force, and nine were about activities that happened after that date.

3. Were any of the enquiries from organisations wanting the law explained?

None of the enquiries referred to in our answer to questions 1-2 were from an organisation requesting the law be explained by the Commission. However, as advised in our prior letters to you, the Commission has provided education to a number of organisations and prepared and published guidelines and voluntary codes of practice to promote consistency with the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Act 2022.

4. How many of those are **complaints** about 'conversion therapy' being practiced on them?

As above, some enquiries referred to experience of conversion practices, but the enquirer did not lodge or seek to proceed with a formal complaint. This means that no formal assessment of whether their experience would meet the legal definition of conversion practices under the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Act 2022 was undertaken.

5. How many of those are **complaints** about receiving 'non-affirming medical care'?

There have not been any complaints about receiving non-affirming medical care. However some enquiries referred to counselling services.

6. How many complaints & enquiries relate to events **after** the new law coming into effect (implementation of the Act), and how many are historical (pre-law) events?

Not all of the enquiries that included mention of personal experience of conversion practices were clear on the time period this related to. Some enquiries have referred to conversion practice experiences that predate the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Act 2022. These would not be eligible for complaint under the new law as a result. However the Commission is still open to hearing from people who have had such experiences.

7. What was the result of the investigations of complaints by the CPRS?

As previously advised, we do not undertake investigations and cannot share the specifics of complaints and dispute resolution outcomes as they are confidential. However, the Commission may be able to publish case studies for education purposes in the future if appropriate.

8. How many complaints / enquiries have been taken to the next level of the complaints process?

Three complaints alleging unlawful discrimination have progressed to the Commission's dispute resolution team. Two of these complaints have closed and one is still in progress. As above, we cannot share the specifics of complaints and dispute resolution outcomes as they are confidential. However, the Commission may be able to publish case studies for education purposes in the future if appropriate.

9. How many complaints have been referred to the police?

No complaints have been referred to police by the Commission.

10. What is the annual budget for the Conversion Practices Response Service?

As set out in our previous letters to you, the Commission received additional funds of \$750,000 in 2020/21 and \$1.5 million in 2021/22 to implement changes brought about by the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Act 2022.

The Commission did not receive any further funding beyond the initial \$2.25 million. The temporary establishment team including conversion practices lived experience survivors has been dissolved and its core functions and services have been handed over to existing staff in our Information and Dispute Resolution and Engagement teams.

11. How much Government funding has the Response Service received since its formation (including funding for the formation itself)?

As set out in our previous letters to you, the Commission received additional funds of \$750,000 in 2020/21 and \$1.5 million in 2021/22 to implement changes brought about by the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Act 2022.

The Commission did not receive any further funding beyond the initial \$2.25 million. The temporary establishment team including conversion practices lived experience survivors has been dissolved and its core functions and services have been handed over to existing staff in our Information and Dispute Resolution and Engagement teams.

12. What engagement has there been over the past 2-3 years by the HRC with individuals who made submissions against the new law and who had positive experiences of receiving counselling to deal with unwanted sexuality and gender confusion issues?

The Commission has not knowingly had any engagement with individuals who made submissions against the new law and who had positive experiences of receiving counselling to deal with unwanted sexuality and gender confusion issues. However as noted above, some of the enquires received by the Commission's Conversion Practices Response Service expressed disagreement with and concern about the new law.

Alternative avenues

If you are unhappy with this response, under the Official Information Act you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman's Office. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or on freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries about this response, please feel free to contact me directly.

Nāku noa, nā

Brittany Peck

Kaitohu Ture | Legal Advisor