

6

Making Visible- The next steps: Supporting LGBTQIA+ AOD workers

Allanah Elvy-Arnold

Accipere Wellness Services Ltd, Wellington

Categories

5 - Professional responsibility

Abstract

Making Visible: improving services for sexual minority people in alcohol and other drug addiction prevention and treatment (Pega & MacEwan, 2010) was ground breaking work that enabled improvements in the knowledge and provision of LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, & Asexual +) affirmative alcohol and drug prevention and treatment in Aotearoa New Zealand. However, more work needs to be done. In this presentation I will expand on the essential competencies outlined in *Making Visible* and showcase those working in our sector who are LGBTQIA+. Drawing on international literature, I will highlight the challenges faced by some LGBTQIA+ professionals in the counselling/helping professions, and encourage non-LGBTQIA+ colleagues, managers, and supervisors to reflect on dominant hetero and cis-normative ideologies held in our professions. This presentation aims to encourage safe, ethical, and effective treatment for all, and promote the wellbeing of our valued LGBTQIA+ workforce.

Biography

Allanah Elvy-Arnold (they/them) is a queer non-binary DAPAANZ Registered Practitioner.

Ko Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, ko Ngāti Pākehā oku iwi.

Allanah has worked in the mental health & addictions sector for the past 10 years in clinical, quality coordination, and auditing roles. Allanah resides in Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington working in private practice while studying part-time at Massey University undertaking a MA(Psychology) thesis on Queer Visibility and Wellbeing in the Counselling Professions.