

Intersex Awareness Day

26 Oct 2023

The facts

Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural body variations, or 'variations in sex characteristics' (VSC). There are up to 40 different VSC!

Intersex people have always existed, but there is now more awareness about the diversity of human bodies and identity.

Intersex traits may be visible at birth; or only discovered at puberty. Sometimes variations become apparent later in life.

Some variations may not be physically apparent at all.

Those born with "typical" sex characteristics are known as endosex.

#rewrite the script

Let's wrap our heads around the fact that sex, gender and sexuality are all different, important aspects of what makes you, you.

People with intersex variations have diverse sex characteristics, which means they might have parts of their bodies that are considered "different". This is separate to a person's gender identity or sexuality.

What do people with intersex variations want?

- The right to bodily autonomy; the right to choose what happens to our bodies and why.
- An end to socially motivated and medically unnecessary surgeries and discrimination in Aotearoa's healthcare systems.
- A medical model that seeks to learn from us, those with lived experience.
- Love & support for both ourselves & our whānau.
- Communities that understand & value diversity.
- Safe, informed & inclusive schools.
- An addressing of the harms that have occurred to intersex bodies by a lack of social awareness and medical interventions.
- Individuals get to choose the language and terms that best fit, and for those terms to be respected.

Want to know more?

- Read the [Darlington Statement](#)
- Become an ally!!
- Sign up to volunteer with us @ Intersex Aotearoa
- Learn more at our website: www.intersexaotearoa.org
- Share what you have learnt with family and friends.
- Check out our Social Media pages: