

AUTSA & NZUSA Statement on Student Safety

The New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) stands in support of the Auckland University of Technology Students' Association (AUTSA), who have encountered several losses last year among their student body. This nation is meant to be a place where people are free, feel supported, safe and welcomed. Yet in 2022, a number of students lost their lives to violence.

We want to take this moment to remember those persons among us, and to send our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones. The increase in violence and crime impacting students has caused shock and grief among the students and staff of Auckland University of Technology, and across the nation.

AUTSA and NZUSA want to make sure that those affected know that there are services and resources available to them, to support them through these difficult times. AUT students have access to [counselling and mental health support](#) through campus services. Individuals can also call or text 1737 at any time if they need to talk.

We, as student leaders, want to uphold safe experiences for all students across the nation. We stand against violence and harmful behavior in all circumstances. We want to ensure that all people feel safe and cared for in our schools, tertiary institutions, and across Aotearoa New Zealand. We want to encourage other students to speak up when they see any members of our community, who may be in need for additional support.

We want to take this opportunity to remind the students of Aotearoa New Zealand, that your wellbeing and safety at your tertiary institution is covered by the [Code of Practice 2021](#). The Code aims to ensure that you feel:

- safe, physically, and mentally
- respected and accepted for who you are
- supported in your learning and wellbeing
- connected with your social and cultural networks
- able to have your say in decisions about services

If you are in need of immediate mental health support, you can make a booking with your health providers on your campus. If you need other supports, you can contact the following services:

Youthline

Call 06 357 3067

Depression Helpline

Call 0800 111 757 or text 4202

The Lowdown Text

Text 5626

If you are a student who had encountered violence or threats of violence you can contact your local students' association on your university or ITP campus, or the staff at your school, university, ITP, wānanga, or PTE, in addition to the following:

New Zealand Police

If you are in danger, call 111

Manaaki Tangata Victim Support NZ

If you need support following an incident, call 0800 842 846

As we approach O-week, we will have new students on campuses across Aotearoa New Zealand. We ask that you consider each other, support and uphold one another. It is important that as students, we look out for each other. Our education also includes upholding our shared humanity, to ensure that we all feel safe enough to learn.

Look out for our O-week updates on ways you can enjoy your start to your semester on campus, so you can look out for yourself and your fellow students!

Signees:

Auckland University of Technology Students' Association

New Zealand Union of Students' Associations

Te Mana Ākonga

