

The logo for NZUSA, featuring the letters "NZUSA" in white, bold, sans-serif font inside a green speech bubble shape.

Annual Report

2020





NATIONAL OFFICE

Isabella Lenihan-Ikin | National President
Sam Smith | National Vice President
Matthew Schep | National Vice President
Jahla Tran-Lawrence | Thursdays in Black Representative

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Isabella Lenihan-Ikin | National President
Sam Smith | National Vice President
Matthew Schep | National Vice President
Dallin Niuelua | Albany Students' Association
George Barton/Emma Rogers | Auckland University Students' Association
Sam Blackmore | Lincoln University Students' Association
David McNab | Massey @ Distance
Jacob Paterson | Massey at Wellington Students' Association
Stefan Biberstein | Massey University Students' Association
Jack Manning | Otago University Students' Association
Izzy Paterson | Students' Association of UCOL
Perina Mucalo/James Brodie | Students' Association at Wintec
Mila Korokhova | Student Connection Weltec & Whitireia
Ali Leota | Tauria Pasifika
Mamaeroa Merito | Te Mana Ākonga
Nohorua Parata | Te Mana Ākonga
Helen Vea | Unitec Student Council
Geo Robrigardo/Taylah Shuker | Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association
Andrew Lessells | Younited

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Reflecting back on this year, I think we can all truly say we gave it our all and have brought more power, kindness and energy to the student movement.

There is no doubt that this year has been incredibly hard. We have worked through a global pandemic, and our advocacy has resulted in massive wins for students, including the Inquiry into Student Accommodation, \$20 million hardship fund for students, a \$20 million technology fund and a \$25 million boost to mental health services for students. These wins are the result of students' associations working together, and a dedicated team of national representatives who have worked incredibly long days to advocate for the needs of students. One thing that I have discovered is that this job is always on; journalists and students themselves ring at anytime of the day or night, whether it be 9pm on a Saturday morning or 4.30am on a Monday morning.

When I came into the role, I identified three projects that I wanted to work on; I wanted strengthen the relationship between Te Mana Ākonga and Tauria Pasifika; run a strong General Election campaign and; establish a NZUSA Trust. Although the Trust is still in development, I believe that as a team we have achieved all of these goals and more this year, from our Covid-19 response and Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga campaign to the Student Partnership Project with the Ministry.

There is no doubt that one of the best parts of my job is working with incredible people. Firstly, I want to acknowledge the National Executive who have worked tirelessly for students, locally and nationally, this year. You have all grown so much since the beginning of the year, and should be very proud of the journey you have come on. Secondly, to Nohorua, Mamaeroa and Ali from Te Mana Ākonga and Tauria Pasifika. The work that all of you has inspired and motivated me to keep on going in the really hard times, and I cannot thank you three enough for your support.

The NZUSA National Office has been exceptional this year. Matthew Schep has done fantastic work this year and I especially want to acknowledge his leadership in the development of ITP student voice and the invaluable relationships that he has built with Te Pūkenga. Sam Smith has done fantastic work leading our Student Partnership work with the Ministry of Education and working largely behind the scenes to refine NZUSAs policies and bring our finances into order. A tight knit team is critical in this type of environment, and Matt and Sam have been great to work with this year. Thank you to all the other people who have supported our work this year from our alumni to the government officials that we have worked with.

Lastly, thank you to all the students across the country who have given us the mandate to do this work. It has been a true honour and privilege to serve you this year.

In solidarity.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Isabella'.

Isabella Lenihan-Ikin
National President

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT

We are stronger in unity than we ever could be apart, and this year has proven our collective strength.

I started my student rep journey as the Postgraduate Officer at OUSA, where I got involved with NZUSA's Postgraduate Student Allowance campaign. Jumping from there into the Vice-President role has been challenging, yet it has been an amazing opportunity to serve our thirteen members and the wider tertiary student community.

We've made huge progress in ITP student voice across Aotearoa this year, reversing the decline that has been happening over the last decade. Alongside campus engagement, we have worked with Te Pūkenga as a stakeholder to strengthen and resource the sector, and our ITP Summit had record turnout. Our work to empower the rainbow, disabled, and postgraduate student communities has also been a big step for national student voice.

COVID-19 has brought additional challenges to the student voice community, but we have met them with resolve and strength. The Inquiry into Student Accommodation has been a massive win for us and we look forward to seeing the next stages.

Thanks to Issie, Sam, and the National Executive for a fantastic year.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS'.

Matthew Schep
National Vice President

It has been a privilege to represent students in one of the most challenging years in recent history.

Throughout my studies, I watched NZUSA achieve numerous wins for students, many of which I have personally benefitted from. I began volunteering for NZUSA in 2018 as the Research Officer and became the Student Voice Project Lead in 2019. To be Vice President in 2020 and play an integral part of NZUSA's mahi has been truly exciting and rewarding.

Although 2020 threw up some unique challenges for students and for NZUSA, we continued to provide a strong voice for students. Most of my time this year has been dedicated to the internal operations of the organisation, which included reviewing all our internal policies with the Policy Committee, keeping the finances in order, and providing general administrative support to the National Office and the National Executive.

I have most enjoyed our Student Partnership Project with the Ministry of Education, and look forward to seeing more progress on strengthening student voice in Aotearoa in 2021.

Thanks to my inspiring team in National Office, the National Executive, and all our student leaders for this memorable year.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Smith'.

Sam Smith
National Vice President

HIGHLIGHTS IN NUMBERS

3 **New Members:** Massey @ Distance, Massey at Wellington Students' Association and Students' Association at Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology Inc.

7 **Events for Student Leaders:** Presidents' Training, National Conference, National Executive Retreat, Two ITP Summits, Student Voice Summit, and Congress.

8 **Key Projects:** Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga campaign, National Student Action Plan on COVID-19, YES2020, #LESHVOTE, Student Accommodation, ITP Student Voice, Student Partnership Project, and Supporting National Rainbow, Disabled and Postgraduate Student Voice.

45 **Students' Organisations** signed with Tauria Pasifika, marking the beginning of our formal partnership. NZUSA is looking forward to working with Tauria Pasifika to strengthen national Pasifika student voice.

1 **Memorandum of Understanding** signed with Tauria Pasifika, marking the beginning of our formal partnership to strengthen national Pasifika student voice.

3 **Pieces of Research:** Impacts of COVID-19 on Students, Economic Analysis of Implementing a Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga, and 'How to Talk About Cannabis; A Checklist' with Just Speak and ActionStation.

90 **th Birthday Celebration** held in Wellington this year, bringing together past and current NZUSA representatives together to reflect on the history of the organisation.

450⁰⁰⁰ **Views of our Video Content**, mostly from our Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga, YES2020 and Student Accommodation campaigns.

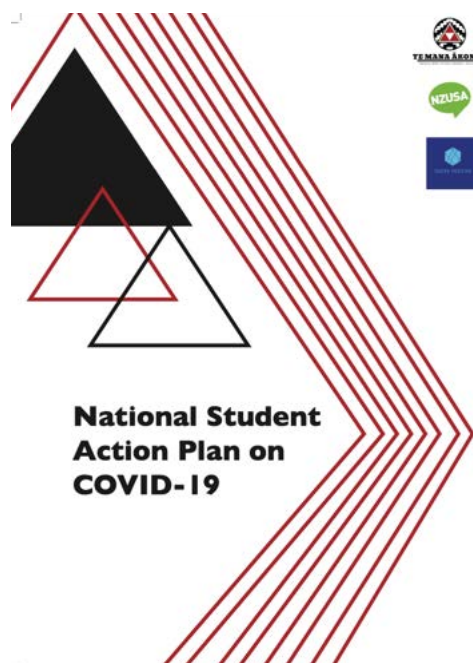
250⁺ **Attendees** at NZUSA's events where student leaders received training, discussed pressing tertiary education issues, and planned key projects for the student movement.

NATIONAL STUDENT ACTION PLAN ON COVID-19

At the beginning of 2020, our year had been mapped out. Our campaigns were planned, event dates set, and we were gearing up for the General Election. As COVID-19 came closer to New Zealand shores, it became increasingly clearer that our plans needed to change. NZUSA adapted to the changing environment and continued to be a strong voice for students in these unprecedented and challenging times.

China Travel Ban

When the first travel ban from China was introduced, against the recommendation of WHO, we courageously criticised the government's response and released an open letter alongside the New Zealand International Students' Association. We argued that the travel ban from China was racist and fuelled hysteria that coronavirus is a "Chinese" disease. Our position received strong media attention and NZUSA National President was interviewed by Susie Ferguson on RNZ's Morning Report.



National Student Action Plan on Covid-19

The National Tertiary Student Action Plan on Covid-19 was developed in collaboration with forty-five students' associations from across the country in the days leading up to the Covid-19 Alert Levels 3 and 4 lockdown. NZUSA, Te Mana Ākonga and Tauria Pasifika coordinated the work, and with the exception of AUTSA, all students' associations (Māori, Pasifika and Pākehā) signed it. The Action Plan outlined clear asks from students, both financial and non-financial that were directed at the government and tertiary providers. The Action Plan was predicated on the reality that Covid-19 left many students in very vulnerable and precarious positions, with many students losing part-time or casual jobs and unable to cover essential weekly costs. This was compounded by the limited weekly income available through StudyLink.

Our asks included introducing a universal student allowance for the duration of the lockdown, relaxing StudyLink eligibility criteria for 2021, increased free mental health available to students, extending the Winter Energy Payment to students, recording all classes, making alternative arrangements for assessments and providing all students in need with devices and/or internet to allow them to continue studying during the lockdown. The National Tertiary Student Action Plan was sent to senior leaders at universities and polytechnics across Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Ministers responsible for Education and Social Development.

Securing student support

As a result of the pressure placed on the government by students, NZUSA, Te Mana Ākonga and Tauria Pasifika representatives met frequently with officials from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development and the Tertiary Education Commission to inform them of the issues that students were experiencing on the ground.

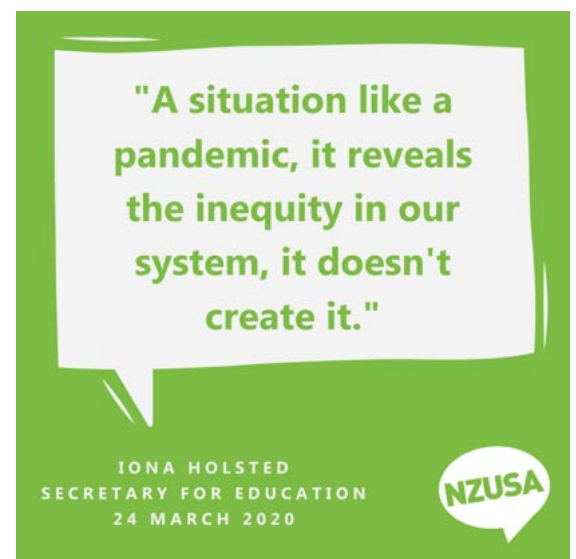
Our Wins

With the combined pressure of external advocacy in the media and internal government lobbying, we were able to achieve significant national wins for students. This included the establishment of the **\$20 million Hardship Fund for Learners (HAFL)** and the **\$20 million Technology Access Fund for Learners (TAFL)**, and a **\$1000 course-related costs increase**, all of which provided students with money to continue studying during the Covid-19 lockdown. Further to this, we advocated for the expansion of free mental health services for tertiary students which resulted in a **\$25 million boost to mental health funding for tertiary students**. These wins are separate to the wins that we achieved for students in student accommodation, and the local wins that we and our members achieved for students.

Collective Action

The success of our Covid-19 response and the National Student Action Plan on Covid-19 came down to our ability to organise forty-five students associations and hundreds of student representatives. Time again, NZUSA received positive feedback from government officials and tertiary providers on how fast, effective and coordinated NZUSAs response was. This emphasises the power of collective action, and the need for students to organise together.

Thank you to all the students who contributed to the Action Plan and who endured the many hours of Zoom meetings to achieve our vision.



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NATIONAL STUDENT ACTION PLAN ON COVID-19

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WHAT WE NEED FROM THE GOVERNMENT

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NATIONAL STUDENT ACTION PLAN ON COVID-19

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WHAT WE NEED FROM OUR TERTIARY PROVIDERS

GENERAL ELECTION 2020

NZUSA's General Election campaign had three parts, a get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaign with Paru Politics; a Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga campaign with Te Mana Ākonga and Taura Pasifika, and our collaborative YES 2020 campaign to achieve a YES vote in the cannabis referendum.

Together, these campaigns fed into the overarching purpose of the campaign which was to **“engage students in the 2020 General Election through targeted voter education and issues-based engagement on student welfare (Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga) and the cannabis referendum”**.

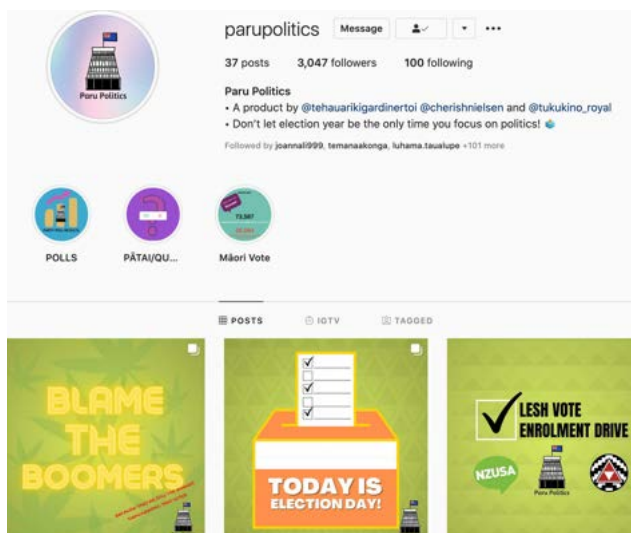
#LESHVOTE with Paru Politics

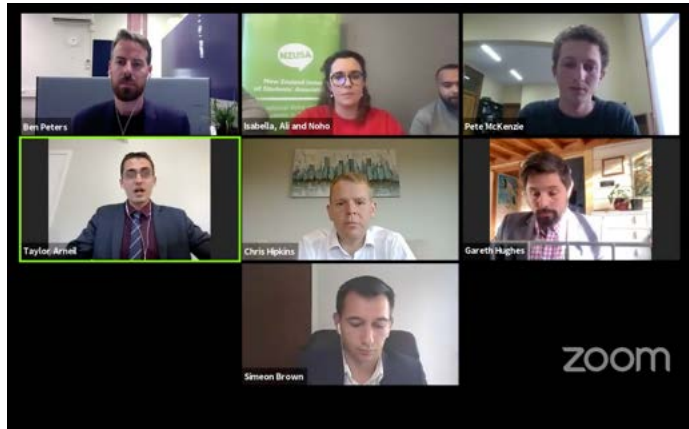
Paru Politics is an educational platform which was established by three Māori law students at the University of Otago. The aim of Paru Politics was to disseminate political and civic information, specifically about the 2020 General Election, with the overarching goal being to encourage people to vote and make informed voting decisions. Paru Politics worked with NZUSA and Te Mana Ākonga to develop multi-media content for social media, including infographics and videos that provided viewers with information about the election. Paru Politics were able to produce 37 infographics and one video for their 3000 plus followers in Instagram. Their posts reached over 8000 people.



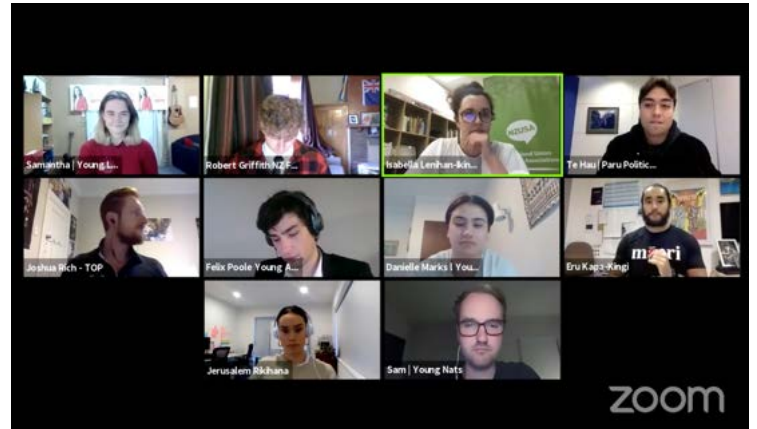
Paru Politics also co-hosted two election forums/debates during the campaign period. The first debate (**Youth Wing Debate**) included the representatives of all the youth wings and received over 10,000 views on Facebook. The second debate (**National Tertiary Students' Election Forum**) featured the Tertiary Spokespeople from political parties and received 3,500 views on Facebook.

We are incredibly grateful for all the work that Paru Politics invested into this campaign! Massive thanks to Te Hau Ariki Gardiner-Toi, Tukukino Royal and Cherish-Peace Nielsen who led the team, plus Te Mahara Swanson Hall, Jesse Merito and Shakayla Andrews-Alapaki for their work.





National Tertiary Students' Election Forum



Youth Wing Debate

Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga

The Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga grew out of the National Student Action Plan on Covid-19. It presented a transformative solution to poverty that students find themselves in, exacerbated by financial crisis that Covid-19 has caused. The Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga campaign was a collaborative effort across NZUSA, Te Mana Ākonga and Tairā Pasifika. Although we each represent different communities of students, we realise that we are stronger as a movement when we work together.

The Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga expands on the longstanding campaign, led by NZUSA, to introduce a universal student allowance. In essence, it would be a weekly income that is paid to all domestic students in Aotearoa New Zealand, based on the principle that education is a right, not a privilege. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that “when [New Zealanders] are trained and educated, that benefits all of us, and the New Zealand economy as a whole”. This recognises that education is a public good. This simply means that the benefits of education aren't worn by the students alone, but also their whānau, community and nation. A Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga is the solution to creating an education system that is a public good that all New Zealanders can access.

The guiding principles of the campaign were three-fold:

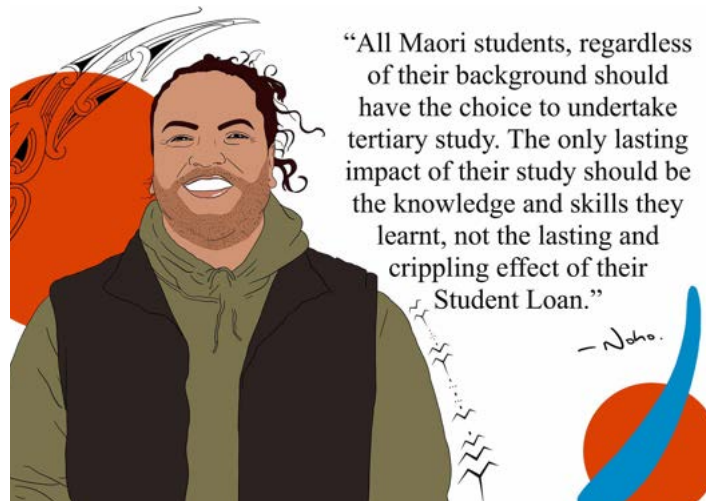
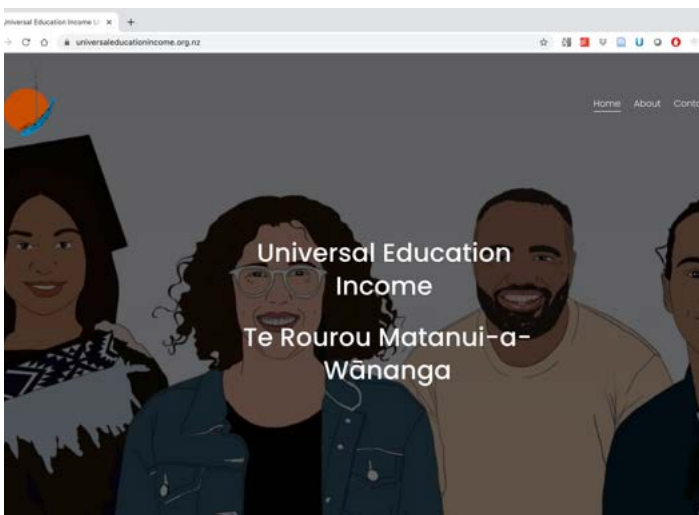
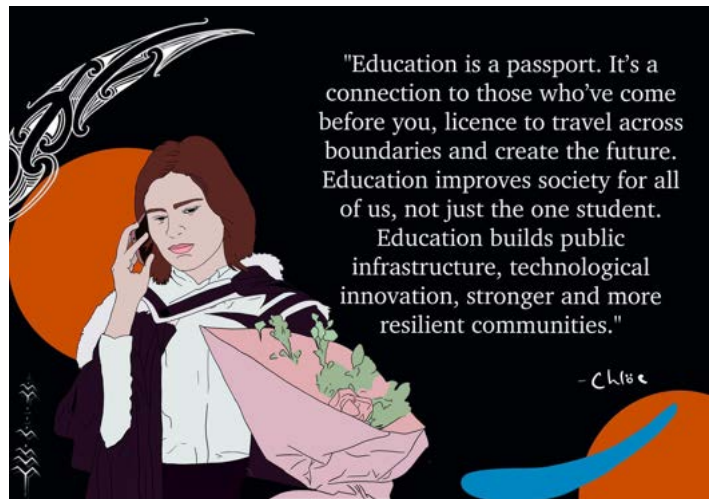


- We work in partnership across NZUSA, Te Mana Ākonga (TMĀ) and Tairā Pasifika to recognise our collective strength and ensure representation and inclusion of students in tertiary education.
- We work for students by centering the lived experiences of students and young people, focusing on the lived experience of weekly student welfare and the poverty that tertiary students experience.
- We personalise politics by increasing voter external efficacy by showing the connections between government and student-specific issues, such as student debt. By personalising politics, we allow students to recognise their power as political agents in the system.



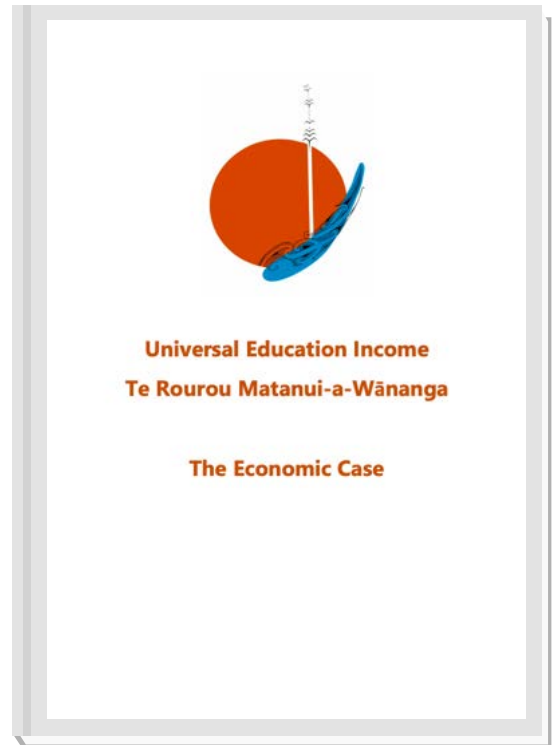
The campaign was launched with a petition, which gathered over 5000 signatures in a matter of weeks.

The campaign was largely focused on digital engagement and told student stories of poverty and debt, and why a Universal Education Income / Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga would solve this. These stories were published on the website that we built and on social media (Facebook and Instagram). We also released a video for social media, and are thankful to the many students that we were able to film for this video.



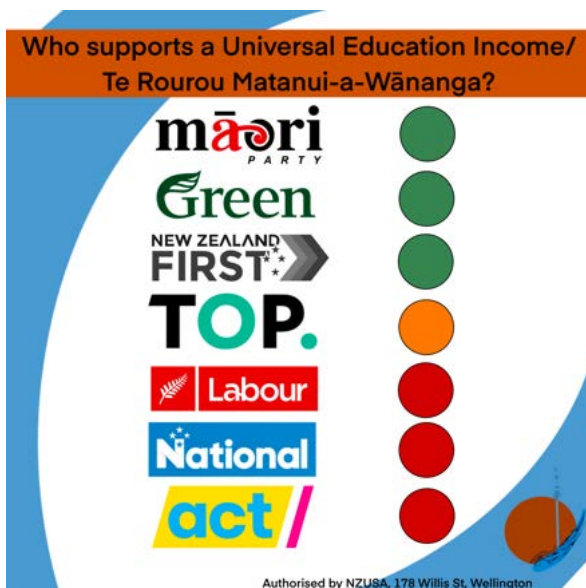
Research: The Economic Case

As all good campaigns are, this campaign was guided by research into the economic and social costs and benefits of a Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga. The socio-political history of student support was produced alongside a piece of research that NZUSA commissioned into the economic case of a Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga. In summary, this researched outlined that if a Universal Education income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga was to be implemented, the estimated forecast cost difference between the status quo and a universal system in 2021 would be just over \$2.5B. This amount includes recommendations for an increase of existing Student Allowance entitlements by \$100 per week. This recommendation is based on the current cost of living in comparison to the current and outdated rates of student support.



Political Support

As part of the campaign, we also met with the tertiary spokespeople from all major political parties to discuss the Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga and to understand their tertiary education priorities. Four political parties, including two political parties who were successfully elected into Parliament, support the Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga. With continued pressure, we hope that a universal system of support becomes a reality.



Supporters

This campaign would not have been possible without the support of the Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga Steering Group, comprised of NZUSA, Te Mana Ākonga and Tauria Pasifika representatives. It would also not have been possible without the support of other member associations, politicians who backed us, our researcher Diana Russell and our designer Jess Collins. Thank you all for your support.

YES2020

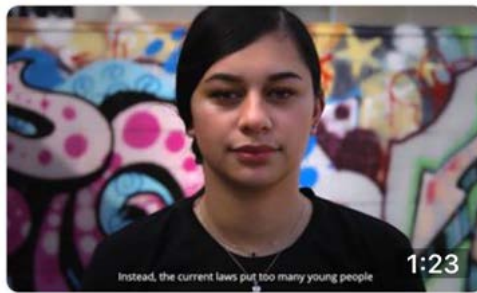
The final branch of our campaign was our YES2020 campaign for the cannabis referendum. Our members voted to take a stance on the cannabis referendum because we collectively recognised that we had the power and the platform to look after young people, especially young Māori, who are being swept into the justice system. We recognised that we all wanted to support a common-sense approach to cannabis that focused on things that work like prevention, education and treatment for those who need it. The vision of this campaign was to empower students to vote YES in the cannabis referendum and empower them to lead informed discussions within their communities on the issue and referendum. In order to do this, we had to make sure that young people and students were enrolled to vote, that they were empowered to vote YES themselves, and that they were empowered to have conversations with their friends and family too.



NZUSA's campaign was supported by VUWSA and YES2020 (a student led group focused on the cannabis referendum), and we were connected in with Just Speak, ActionStation, NZ Drug Foundation and 'Make it Legal', among other pro-YES organisations. Our campaign included creating and releasing three videos. The first video served to provide a brief overview of the referendum and what voting yes meant. The second and third were made in collaboration with Just Speak and ActionStation, based on a piece of research that we had commissioned together. These videos went viral, with the first video received over **141,000 views** on Facebook. and the second two receiving over **40,000 views** respectively on Facebook. These videos would not have been possible without the support of Gilbert Patten-Elliott who filmed, directed and edited all of our videos.



YES 2020
7 weeks ago · 141.2K Views



YES 2020 Video 2
6 weeks ago · 41.4K Views



YES 2020 Video 3
5 weeks ago · 41.7K Views



We also created banners that were put up on tertiary campuses across the country and hand-wrote post-cards that we delivered to hundreds of students on campus and hand delivered to letterboxes in student neighbourhoods in Wellington. These actions were made possible by a group of volunteers who attended our weekly 'Weednesday' volunteer nights.



Digital Engagement

Another key tactic that we used in the campaign was digital engagement. We communicated our messages through infographics, that reflected our values based messaging.

We ran two series of infographics. The first were based on the four values of our campaign; regulation, health, education and ineffective treatment. We are very grateful to Tallulah Farrah who designed these amazing infographics, that did incredibly well on Instagram and were even shared by Benee!!



ITP STUDENT VOICE

Student voice at Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs) has been in decline since the Voluntary Student Membership bill (VSM) took effect in 2012, with associations folding and students becoming disengaged with representation. 2020 has provided an opportunity to reverse this decline, with the huge changes in the sector. We helped found a new association at UCOL, did some strategic work with SAWIT to safeguard their association, affiliated SANITI as a member of NZUSA, backed a proposal by Open Polytechnic students for a student council, and engaged with other student reps around association building.

NZUSA did work last year around the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) project, and this year, with the formation of Te Pūkenga, we have had extensive engagement with their leadership team to ensure that resourcing and supporting student voice is a priority for them. We have consulted on their student subcommittee, met with their council to press issues faced by students, and had discussions about a contract between our organisations to grow and support student voice in the sector.



National ITP Summit 2020

Our ITP student rep engagement this year has been unprecedented. NZUSA had our annual ITP Summit booked for 23-24 March, but cancelled it in the wake of the pandemic, bringing the core sessions online with weekly Zoom meetings. Late October saw us bring sixty student leaders from thirteen subsidiaries across Aotearoa, plus our Māori and Pasifika whanau, together for training, planning, and learning, the biggest Summit to date. The Summit featured workshops, presentations, networking, and lots of questions for stakeholders. We maintain a regular communication channel with ITP student presidents, where we discuss strategy with RoVE and Te Pūkenga, and consult on decisions that impact the student voice sector.

The next few years hold unparalleled opportunities for student voice in the ITP sector that NZUSA needs to seize and hold fast to. We can, and are starting to, change the institutional culture around student voice in Te Pūkenga, and better independent student voice, as well as the continuation of a strong relationship with the national provider, is on the horizon.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Over the last decade, there has been a substantial increase in the number of recorded issues faced by tertiary students arising in residential student accommodation across Aotearoa New Zealand. During this time, NZUSA has stood up to the government and tertiary providers and has exposed the systemic issues that exist in this sector, including poor employment conditions and limited training for staff, inconsistent communication from providers, a lack of legislation to protect accommodation users, and rapidly rising fees levied on students that far outpace the rate of inflation.

Covid-19 exacerbated these issues. During the lockdown, many students across the country were required to continue to pay for accommodation they could no longer access, and in some cases were asked to leave during the Alert Levels 3 and 4 lockdown.

NZUSA championed the voices of students by supporting rent strikes, providing legal advice to students so they could cancel contracts, and mobilising students to demand government action. We demanded that accommodation costs be waived during the lockdown and that there was no cost to students, if they needed to withdraw from their student accommodation.

During the lockdown, NZUSA hosted several public zoom meetings that over 300 students took part in. This culminated in our successful campaign for the Education and Workforce Select Committee undertake an independent inquiry into residential student accommodation Aotearoa New Zealand. We believe that an independent inquiry would allow an in-depth analysis of the purpose of residential student accommodation, current managerial structures, and would ascertain how they impact the lives and wellbeing of students residing in residential student accommodation across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Following the launch of this campaign, NZUSA supported hundreds of students and students' associations to write submissions. We developed a template submission on our website, and hosted information sessions with MPs and student representatives to discuss the issues that students faced in student accommodation. We also produced a series of videos promoting the Inquiry for our social media. The Inquiry was paused during the general election campaign, and continue in the coming months



RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament in February 2020, and proposed to address the power imbalance that exists between renters and landlords. Many of the amendments were policies that NZUSA has been advocating for, and it was pleasing to see the Government following through on their commitment to make renting more secure and safe.



Sam Smith (Vice President) presenting to the (Virtual) Social Services and Community Select Committee

Submission to Parliament

NZUSA made a written submission and oral submission in favour of the Bill to the Social Services and Community Select Committee. We were most supportive of the proposals to end rental bidding, extend the minimum rental price increase from 6 months to 12 months, allow renters to make minor fixtures their home, ensure renters can access information about the property's Health Homes Standards compliance, and remove 90-day lease terminations for 'any other case'. In August 2020, Parliament enacted the Bill, including all of the amendment NZUSA advocated for, in what is a major leap forward for the rights of renters.

ADVOCATE NETWORKS

Tenants Advocates Network (TAN)

NZUSA is a founding member of the Tenants Advocates Network, which brings people together from housing and tenancy advocacy organisations across the country. The Network is dedicated to the sharing of expertise, information, and improving tenancy advocacy everywhere. The Network has worked together on the Residential Tenancy Reforms this year and on advocating for tenants during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Student Advocates Network (SAN)

Inspired by the success of the Tenants Advocates Network, NZUSA has established our own network of Student Advocates who work for our member-students' associations across the country. The Student Advocates Network meets monthly to share ideas and resources, and to link in with government departments and agencies (MBIE, Employment NZ, Tenancy Services, StudyLink) which NZUSA has an existing relationship with. This enables SAN to provide feedback on services that students use (e.g. Tenancy Tribunal) so that they can be improved for students and will enable SAN members to have greater access and information when supporting students through these services.

STUDENT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

One of NZUSA's key projects in 2019 and 2020 has been strengthening student voice in Aotearoa. Last year, NZUSA's lobbying efforts led to a government initiated nationwide survey of student voice in tertiary education. The survey results were released this year, and highlighted what we already knew; that student voice is inconsistent, under-resourced, lacking in diverse voices and a major power imbalance exists between student organisations and providers.

Alongside the survey, NZUSA played an influential role in the development of the Education (Pastoral Care of Domestic Tertiary Students) Interim Code of Practice, a law that purposes to ensure students can succeed academically by having a safe and supportive learning environment. One of the clauses we are most proud of is in Outcome 6 of the 'Code', which legislates that tertiary providers **'must have practices for assisting students to be key partners in developing practices that influence their study, their learning environment, and pastoral care'**.

On the back of the Student Voice Survey, and the new legislative requirement for tertiary providers to engage students as partners in their learning, NZUSA approached the Ministry of Education to develop 'Student Partnership Guidelines' for providers to better achieve their partnership requirements. This has been a student-led project, supported by the Ministry. NZUSA, TMĀ, TP, DSA and a range of student leaders have contributed to this resource by developing student voice principles, outcomes, and practices, accompanied with real-world stories of student partnership in action.

This resource will not solve all of the problems raised in the survey, but it will support the current transition from 'students as customers' to 'students as partners'. We hope that students' organisations, tertiary providers, government departments and other organisations wanting to work with students use this resource to develop their own, tailored student partnership practices and agreements at a local-level. All going well, we hope to release this work at Congress.

Looking ahead to 2021, the Student Voice Survey identified there is **'strong support for establishing for National Centre for Student Voice'**. Further, at our National Tertiary Students' Election Forum in October, the Minister of Education said he has been "consulting on the establishment of a National Centre for Student Voice". It will be critical for next years student leaders to continue pushing for its establishment to better support student representatives, and help to address institutional power-imbalances, especially in relation to the funding of student voice and students' organisations. Many opportunities lie ahead to further ensure that student voices are empowered throughout the tertiary education sector.

NZUSA TURNS 90!

In July, NZUSA celebrated 90 years of fighting for students, having been founded in 1929. The 90th Birthday Celebration brought together NZUSA alumni from the last fifty years. Past and present student leaders discussed their experiences of the student movement, and reflected on the history of the organisation. The Hon Grant Robertson (1996 NZUSA President) was the guest speaker, and shared stories from his time as a student politician both with NZUSA and OUSA. It is not long now until NZUSA turns 100, and we look forward to reuniting again on that day.



THURSDAYS IN BLACK

As rates of sexual violence rose during lockdown, and continue to remain high in the inevitable recession, COVID-19 has reinforced the need to prioritise sexual violence prevention campaigns such as ours.

It has been four years since NZUSA relaunched the Thursdays in Black Campaign which is currently thriving in tertiary spaces across Aotearoa. While much of this year's engagement has been in the online space, we have continued to work behind the scenes on our 5-Year plan, and changed our methods into online engagement.

National Thursdays in Black Council

The National Council has met 7 times in 2020 and is made up of representatives from 8 different campuses, working together in achieving our collective goals. This has been achieved through resource sharing, relationship building, and co-designing the National Day of Action. In 2020 we were excited to have our first representatives from ITP's on the National Council.

Thursdays in Black National Coordinator

It has been a pleasure to be the National Coordinator for Thursdays in Black Aotearoa this year. Despite the challenging parts of the year, I have immensely enjoyed being a part of this campaign, and providing support to the different groups across the country. Students in Aotearoa often only see the public events, but behind the scenes there have been workshops, training sessions, policy-reviews, media engagement, hui, presentations, conferences, and constant resource building for future students engaged with the campaign.



Tertiary Presence

TiB has a presence on 10 different tertiary campuses across Aotearoa, with one of those being established this year, and the rest continuing to grow. Each of these groups approaches the mahi with a different perspective, and knowledge of their own students, but shares a commitment to the 5-Year Plan and the overall goal of ending sexual violence in tertiary spaces.

ITP Presence

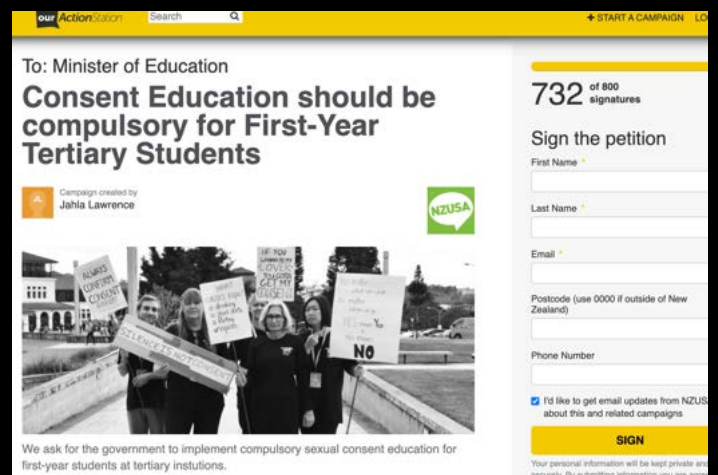
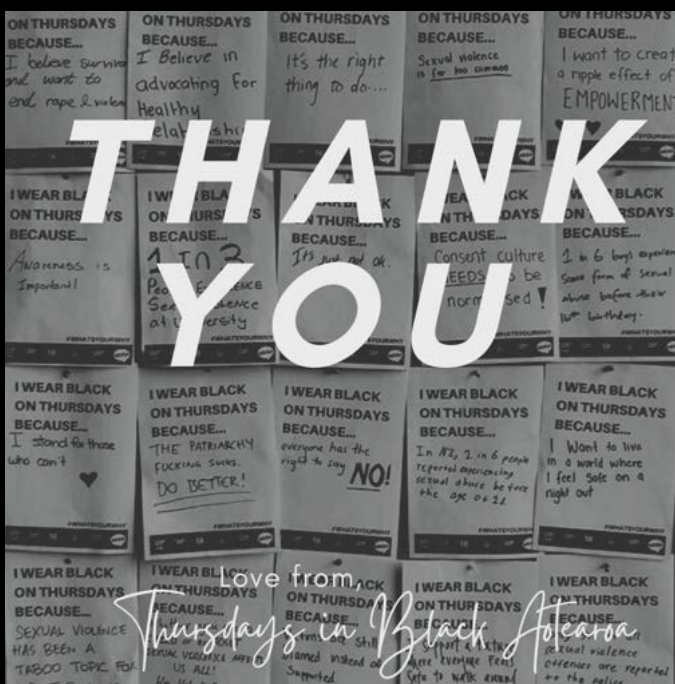
We have increasing engagement with ITP's, having attended the ITP Summit and forming relationships with various ITP's across Aotearoa. We hope that 2021 brings increased collaboration between ITP's and TiB in order for our kaupapa to flourish in all tertiary spaces.

National Day of Action

Individual campus groups all held different events based on the needs and COVID restrictions of their areas. Some groups held on-campus stalls, some had in person awareness raising events, and others ran online events. Nationally we ran a photo campaign called #whatsyourwhy which aimed to highlight the community behind Thursdays in Black and the motivations for students engaging in the kaupapa. These photos were released throughout the day on social media. Additionally, we launched an ActionStation petition to mandate consent education for first year students in tertiary institutions, this was the first step in a wider campaign that will continue into 2021. The National Day of Action received media attention from 1News, Stuff/Dominion Post, and Newstalk, with positive coverage sharing our kaupapa.



- 10 Members of National Council
- 47 #whatsyourwhy submissions
- 2247 Followers
- 2245 Likes on Facebook



We are incredibly grateful to the members of National Thursdays in Black Council and their campus groups for all their hard work during a particularly difficult year: Maddi Rowe (Victoria University of Wellington), Luka Benefield (Massey University, Wellington), Kerry Howe (Massey University, Manawatu), Poppy Mitchell-Anyon (University of Auckland), Barbera Forster (Lincoln University), Kamilla Korokhova (Weltec/Whitirea), Matthew Schepp (Weltec/Whitirea), Georgia Swan (University of Canterbury), and Kayli Taylor (Otago University).

TE MANA ĀKONGA REPORT

Ko te mana o te taura, ko te mana o te ākonga, ko te mana o te rangatahi e!

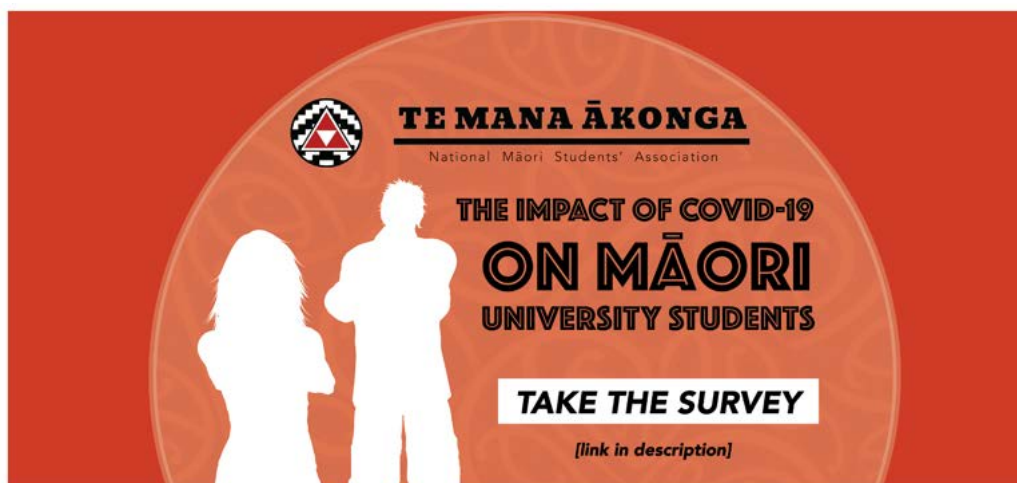
2020 has been a challenging and rewarding year for Te Mana Ākonga and member roopū. The beginning of the year saw a lot of promising and exciting opportunities for taura Māori across the country, however, many of these had to be adapted in the face of COVID-19. Te Mana Ākonga has continued to advocate for taura Māori at regional and national levels, particularly on matters regarding responses to the pandemic, and how these impacted our students



TE MANA ĀKONGA
National Māori Tertiary Students' Association

At the heart of this mahi was the continued development and strengthening of relationships with our member roopū and their students. Zoom became a platform for maintaining these relationships, however, we are certain that the numerous 'zui' will not be missed, now that we are able to meet kanohi ki te kanohi again. Alongside this, Te Pararē has been firmly cemented and continues to provide a medium for Māori student voice and expression, and they have been instrumental in broadcasting and elevating the representative voices of our taura. With their projected success, we hope that a printed and physical publication of Te Pararē will soon eventuate.

One of our proudest accomplishments this year was the release of TMA's first ever research report titled Impacts of the COVID-19 Lockdown on Māori University Students (2020). This research was led by our very own Pou Hauora, Zaine Akuhata-Huntington, who conducted surveys amongst our Māori university students and presented this thorough report, with the expectations of conducting a similar research on our ITP, ITO and PTE sectors. This has been actioned by ourselves in collaboration with MOE, in the hope of having them all released by the end of this calendar year. You can find the report on our website www.temanaakonga.org.nz/nga-puka.



Amongst the many troubles COVID-19 and the lockdown had on TMA and our taura, there was an increasing development of structural racism amongst our universities. This led to TMA supporting the letter of our Māori academics in their call for a nation-wide review of the University tertiary sector for the purpose of committing to, and accelerating with urgency, a tertiary sector that honours te Tiriti o Waitangi. Our letter was supported and signed by 33 students' associations from across the tertiary sector and hope that this will lead to further action from the government.

We've also been fortunate enough this year to collaborate with our external and partnering organisations on issues that matter most to our students, including online zoom panels, forums and campaigns to name a few. The goal of collaborating with other organisations has embedded TMA's relationships and connections with our networks, creating greater opportunity in the near future.



TMA would like to acknowledge both NZUSA and Taura Pasifika for their efforts this year and the continued development amongst our three organisations. It has been an exciting year collaborating on multiple kaupapa and would like to acknowledge in particular Isabella Lenihan-Ikin, Sam Smith, Matthew Schep and Ali Leota for building such a close relationship between our executives and offices. We wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

Lastly, we would also like to congratulate and welcome our incoming Tumuaki Takirua (Co Presidents) Nkhaya Paulsen-More and Renata White who were recently elected at our Te Huinga Taura (Annual General Meeting) back in September. We wish them and our incoming execs across our membership the very best for 2021.



It has been an honour and privilege as the executive of Te Mana Ākonga to serve our taura Māori for this year. Thank you to everyone who supported us and contributed a lot to TMA's success this year. We have enjoyed every part of the journey and have taken a lot of learnings and skills from it. We now look forward to returning back home with these memories to further the awesome work of our tīpuna and continue to serve our people.



Te Tari Whakahaere o Te Mana Ākonga 2020

Mamaeroa Merito | Tumuaki Takirua o Te Mana Ākonga
Nohoroa Parata | Tumuaki Takirua o Te Mana Ākonga
Kyle Murray | Kaihāpai
Zaine Akuhata-Huntington | Pou Hauora

TAUIRA PASIFIKA REPORT

E le sili le ta'i i lo le tapua'i

To lead is not as important as to support



This year was our first year as a functioning student organisation that represents the voice of Pacific learners across tertiary education. Like our partner organisation with many plans and aspirations for the year, unfortunately these were put to rest. Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, it realigned our year to be more innovative in ensuring Pasifika tertiary students were supported to still be able to chase their dreams and aspirations through tertiary education.

As a result, our communities were having to adapt to online learning without devices; work on the front line as an essential worker and repatriate back to the Pacific. COVID-19 has also meant it was a collective call for student action. Hence, our proud Pasifika student leaders from across the country were able to virtually band together and work alongside NZUSA and Te Mana Ākonga in the development of the National Student Action Plan on COVID-19.

Through our regular Talanoa Friday we were able to advocate and contribute to issues of significance, whether it be to Ministers, government agencies, tertiary providers and many more stakeholders, so that we were able to support Pasifika students both locally and nationally.

Though 2020 has left many uncertainties; it has strengthened the resilience of Pasifika students to step up in student representation. We hosted a number of Talanoa Friday sessions over zoom, engaged with Members of Parliament and held our own talanoa around Elections to have tough conversations. All these areas of engagement are aspects we look to build on to in the new year.





Our growth has much to do with NZUSA and Te Mana Ākonga for bringing Taura Pasifika along the way to work with the likes of the Ministry of Education and Disabled Students' Association. Without these new relationships Taura Pasifika would not be in a position to confidently host the 2020 Pasifika Students' Fono after a challenging year. However, in November we will bring together the outgoing and incoming Pasifika student representatives to host the 10th Pasifika Students' Fono, a professional development opportunity Fono that looks to ensure equip students with necessary skills and connect with our counterparts to continue to grow our voice in tertiary education.

Reflecting on the year, though it was our first year functioning, 2020 has allowed us to continue to build Taura Pasifika and this momentum will flow on into 2021. I am particularly grateful to my executive team, Sulu Danielle Joshua - Northern Vice-President, Jaistone Finau - Central Vice-President, Mary Jane Kivalu - Southern Vice-President, Zayna Lam - Treasurer and Jephtah Coe - Secretary, for their on going alofa, tautua and fa'aaloalo. It has been a blessing to grow our relationship with our partners NZUSA and Te Mana Ākonga, and I look forward to seeing this relationship continue to thrive in the advocacy for a barrier-free education for all.



Ali Leota
Taura Pasifika National President

DISABLED STUDENT VOICE

This year, NZUSA has been working alongside a group of students led by Alice Mander (President of the Disabled Students' Association at Victoria University of Wellington) to develop a national Disabled Students' Association.

COVID-19 brought to light many issues within the tertiary education sector and highlighted the importance of strong student advocacy for achieving equitable learning. The need for a national Disabled Students Association became extremely pertinent; too often disabled students are excluded from the national conversation about the student experience. NZUSA, in collaboration with the Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) has begun the process of creating a national body. The project began with a zoom hui during the first lockdown with disabled students, advocates, and allies across the country to discuss the current issues facing disabled students and what a national organisation could achieve. To gain further input from the community and what they may want from a national organisation, a survey was created and circulated online. This survey was received very successful and disabled students from across and there was a common desire for national disabled student advocacy.

The next steps is to collate the information and begin building the foundations of the organisation (constitution, executive structure etc.) so that even more work can be done in 2021!

RAINBOW STUDENT VOICE

NZUSA started organising rainbow students in the 1990s, appointing a Queer Project Officer, who founded UniQ Aotearoa and helped to resource clubs on university campuses, as well as organise national conferences. This engagement dropped off about a decade ago, and NZUSA decided it was time to reengage with this work.

Matthew Schep (National Vice President) took the lead on rainbow student engagement, forming a National Rainbow Students' Committee, known informally as Queer Students Aotearoa, that meets monthly to discuss and action issues faced by queer students. Long term, the committee will be led by a National Rainbow Student Representative, whom funding is being sought for at present.

So far, the committee has submitted on the NZ Statistical Standard for Sex and Gender review, and has begun work on a Tertiary Guide for safer campuses for queer students. We look forward to having a dedicated National Rainbow Student Representative in National Office next year to continue this work.

POSTGRAD STUDENT VOICE

NZUSA's Postgraduate Allowance Campaign has been the core postgrad focus for the national team in recent years, but with the additional challenges faced by postgrads during lockdown, and a passion from our team to have stronger national postgrad voice, we decided to step things up.

We began fortnightly meetings with postgrad students, student reps, national rep bodies, and other stakeholders, to hash out the issues faced by postgrads around Aotearoa New Zealand and support each other while collectively working on solutions. This allowed us to gather stories from postgrad students, and to bring their stories to light in our Universal Education Income / Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga campaign.

The Postgrad Working Group put out a national survey in the second semester, asking ten open questions about respondents' experiences in their postgrad studies, including mental health, institutional support, financial security, and COVID-19 impacts. We are turning the results into a report for public release, telling postgrad struggles in students' own words.

RESEARCH

NZUSA remains the only organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand that produces high quality and consistent research about tertiary students. Our research has covered a wide range of topics from mental health to sexual violence, the cost of being a student and housing.

This year, NZUSA produced three pieces of research. The first piece of research explored the impacts of Covid-19 on tertiary students, focusing on the financial and academic impacts. This research was used to support our asks of the Government. The second study was an economic analysis of the Universal Education Income/Te Rourou Matanui-a-Wānanga, focusing on how much a liveable weekly amount is for students and what the total cost to the government would be. Finally, we commissioned a piece of research from The Workshop with Just Speak and ActionStation, titled 'How to Talk About Cannabis; A Checklist'. This research was used to help construct effective communication strategies, messages and narratives about cannabis law reform, that we used in our YES2020 campaign.

NZUSA is also in the development phase of our next 'Income and Expenditure Survey', which collects information about the cost of being a student. Produced every 3-4 years by NZUSA, this research has been used by successive governments and political parties to develop their policies and create legislative change. The survey will be conducted and released next year.

All three pieces of research are accessible on our website.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS

Conferences and Events

2020 saw record turnouts at NZUSA events. The year began with President's Training and National Conference, both opportunities for student leaders to access training and determine NZUSA's priorities for the year ahead. Two ITP Summits were run (one with sessions spread out over lockdown) which brought student together to progress what student voice will look like under Te Pūkenga. A Retreat for the National Executive was held after lockdown to bring our team together and reassess our plan for the year. National Office is in the middle of planning our Student Voice Summit and Congress, where we will reflect on the year that has been, and look ahead to 2021.

Governance Review

NZUSA is always looking to improve its internal structures. In 2018, NZUSA reviewed its democratic structures, and this year, NZUSA conducted a member-led review of our governance structures. The Governance Review Committee conducted wide-reaching consultation, research and interviews, and put forth their proposal for a new governance structure to this year's Congress. If approved, the new structure will be implemented in 2021.

Internal Policy Review

The NZUSA Policy Committee reviewed all of the organisation's internal policies, many of which have not been updated for several years. The Committee meet every six weeks, having reviewed policies in pairs. By October, all of the updated policies had been approved by the National Executive. The policy review was a significant undertaking, and the hard work of the Policy Committee will benefit the organisation for years to come.

Financial Performance

A focus of National Office for 2020 has been tightening up spending and increasing our income streams. Careful budgeting, reviewing expenditure, and bringing in more revenue from external committees and new members has placed us in a healthy financial position for 2021.

Website

We are well aware that the NZUSA website is in dire need of a refresh. This year, a website designer was commissioned to build a new website for the organisation, one that is easier to use, contains more useful resources for student leaders, and provides more information about NZUSA's projects, research and campaigns. We are hoping to launch the new website at Congress.

NZUSA Trust

Following approval from the National Executive and the support of our Alumni, National Office began working on establishing an NZUSA Trust to help raise funds for particular projects, including archiving and the development of a book in preparation for our 100th year anniversary. We are on track for the Trust to launch before the end of the year.

PROFIT AND LOSS

New Zealand Union of Students' Associations Inc. 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

31 Dec 19

Income	
Committee Revenue	21,724
Conference Income	18,988
Interest Income	3,499
Levies - Associate Members	10,000
Member Levies	175,150
Other Revenue	14,773
TIB Income	4,527
Total Income	248,660
Less Cost of Sales	
TIB Merchandise	4,679
Total Cost of Sales	4,679
Gross Profit	243,982
Plus Other Income	
Donations	1,726
Total Other Income	1,726
Less Operating Expenses	
Asset U500	69
Bank Fees	341
Campaigns	5,905
Communication - Cellphones	574
Communication - Telephone	212
Computer and Software	95
Conferences and Training	8,510
Conferences and Training - Congress	3,262
Equipment Rental	4,000
General Expenses	1,100
Interest Expense	955
Light, Power, Heating	1,248
National Executive Meetings	313
National Rep Salaries	85,401
Office Expenses	168
Rent	11,851
Salaries	11,141
Shipping	36
Subscriptions	3,286
Te Mana Akonga	26,087
Travel	2,558
Website	446
Total Operating Expenses	167,559
Net Profit	78,149

BALANCE SHEET

New Zealand Union of Students' Associations Inc. As at 31 December 2019

31 Dec 2019

Assets

Bank	
32 Day Notice	50,551
90 Day Notice	101,926
BNZ Advanced Call Account	21,675
BNZ Non-Profit Org Account	15,945
Kiwibank NZUSA	50,463
Thursdays in Black	-
Total Bank	240,560
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	20,538
TIB	275
Total Current Assets	20,813
Fixed Assets	
Office Equipment	10,600
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(4,287)
Total Fixed Assets	6,313
Total Assets	267,686

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	3,357
BNZ Credit Card	163
GST	85,494
NZUSA Credit Card	1,066
Rounding	-
Total Current Liabilities	90,080
Total Liabilities	90,080
Net Assets	177,606

Equity

Capital Reserve Account	381,869
Current Year Earnings	78,149
Retained Earnings	(282,411)
Total Equity	177,606



NZUSA National Office
Level 8, 178 Willis Street,
Te Aro, Wellington, 6011







**New Zealand Union of Students'
Associations Incorporated**