



SANITI Annual General Meeting – President’s Report 2025

2024 was a challenging year for ākonga/students, who faced rising living costs alongside an ever-changing vocational training environment.

NMIT significantly reduced its funding for the Service Level Agreement (SLA), cutting contracted service provision from \$518,800 in 2023 to \$372,631 in 2024—a reduction of \$146,169. In response, the SANITI Student Executive secured approval for 2024 services to be heavily subsidized by SANITI, ensuring that ākonga/students continued receiving essential support in an uncertain environment. SANITI implemented cost-saving measures and absorbed additional compliance costs to maintain service delivery. At the request of ākonga/students, SANITI retained a student support staff member in Marlborough.

Demand for independent support and advocacy services increased by 13% in 2024, alongside rising demand on the employment information services and higher event costs. These factors contributed to a \$120,545 deficit in the NMIT contracted service provision.

Beyond the SLA, SANITI collaborated with NMIT to distribute the Manaaki hardship fund and, with industry support, delivered a Learner Network Pilot for Construction and Infrastructure ākonga/students (both on-campus and apprentices).

At Ara, SLA funding for independent advocacy and support services increased in 2024. SANITI continued to employ a full-time advocate at Ara’s main Christchurch campus and collaborated with Ara to expand service provision to 1.5 full-time advocates for 2025.

Student voice remained a priority throughout 2024. The Student Executive and General Meetings proceeded as scheduled, and national representation was achieved through the TEC Learner Advisory Committee, National Disability Student Association (NDSA) and Te Mana Ākonga. Additionally, the SANITI Advisory Board, including professional services, actively supported the Student Executive and Management staff.

Below is a snapshot of last year’s successes:

STRATEGIC GOAL ONE <i>Social events to foster a strong integrated campus culture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SANITI held 55 events, across four campus and online to increase accessibility to 5,249 ākonga/students. SANITI served over 8,800 servings of free food!• SANITI delivered 9 international activities in the Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough regions.• SANITI in collaboration with NMIT delivered the Learner Network Pilot – Construction and Infrastructure.
STRATEGIC GOAL TWO <i>Friendly independent advocacy and support services for all students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2,358 advocacies (including hardship) at NMIT• 467 advocacies (including drop-in's) at Ara.• 136 ākonga/students Programme Representatives.• SANITI partnered with StudyLink to deliver on NMIT Nelson, Marlborough and Richmond campuses.• SANITI partnered with StudyLink to deliver outreach services in the top of the south.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANITI partnered with Ara to provide independent advocacy service for Tai Poutini students (on request). • Delivered employment listings and job specific information support. • SANITI visited over 48-night course and apprentice block courses. • Provided student representation on 5 NMIT committees.
STRATEGIC GOAL THREE <i>Independent representation of the student voice and collaborative student engagement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANITI held: 2 general meetings; 2 Executive elections; 10 executive meetings; 2 strategic & operational planning sessions. • Advisory Board provided support to SANITI governance and management throughout the year. • SANITI were active members of the National Disability Student Association (NDSA). • SANITI representative attended Te Mana Ākonga (National Māori Tertiary Students' Association) hui in July.
STRATEGIC GOAL FOUR <i>Thriving, sustainable and future focused Student Association</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANITI is actively involved in NMIT student voice forums and learner networks. • SANITI representation on the TEC Learner Advisory Committee. • SANITI invited to be the voice of students on the NZQA Learner Leadership committee because SANITI upholds the Education Pastoral Care Code to the highest level. • SANITI continued to be an active member of the Nelson Community Foodbank Trust and work with Marlborough Community Foodbank.

2024 – A year in review

Key relationships

SANITI maintained and built new key relationships; continued support of the Nelson Community Foodbank; became an active member of the National Disability Student Association (NDSA) and attended online hui; attended Te Mana Ākonga (National Māori Tertiary Students' Association) hui in July, hosted in Dunedin.

Learner committees and networks

Student Executive represents students on Te Pūkenga **vocational education** and training forums (tertiary education that prepares students for careers) by attending online hui and conference. The executive was invited to be a voice for students on the **NZQA Learner Leadership committee**. The committee ensures the Education Pastoral Care Code is fit for purpose and that students are safe and supported.

The **Learner Network Pilot – Construction and Infrastructure** was a Te Pūkenga initiative that was organised and run by SANITI. Dubbed the **Construction Collective**, the event was held in September and featured 6 guest speakers, selected by apprentices and on-campus students, who answered pressing questions about the industry and the current job market. Construction and Infrastructure sector includes Carpentry, Joinery and Civil Engineering. To ensure student voices were heard, SANITI conducted 4 focus groups across Richmond, Nelson and Marlborough. These discussions provided valuable insights into apprentice and student concerns, helping shape future support and industry connections.

Compulsory Student Services Fee (CSSF)

The consultation and negotiation process for the 2025 Service Level Agreement (SLA) was delayed due to NMIT's restructuring consultation and differing interpretations of the process outlined in the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) guidelines. The Student Executive believed the correct process was not followed and that students were not adequately informed about proposed changes to their services. In

response, the Executive reached out to TEC for guidance and support. Since the CSSF is student money, intended solely for student services, students should have a say in who provides these services. TEC subsequently launched an investigation into the student consultation process, gathering information from both NMIT and the SANITI Student Executive.

In December 2024, SANITI received notice of a potential change to the 2025 SLA. While the investigation was ongoing, it was agreed that services would continue until 31 March 2025. However, NMIT's lack of transparency in informing students about service delivery under CSSF funding led to action. Executive members mobilized the student body, educating them on the CSSF, its purpose, and the potential impact of the proposed changes. This awareness campaign prompted students to take a stand—engaging in discussions with classmates, spreading information about their entitlements, and signing a petition to express their opposition. As a result of these collective efforts and discussions with SANITI, NMIT has agreed to fund SANITI's CSSF category services for 2025.

Ongoing feedback

Behind the scenes, the student Executive and SANITI are constantly fighting to ensure the entire student body has a voice at every level. We actively gather feedback from programme representatives, the SANITI Student Survey, independent support services and focus groups to make sure NMIT understands what students truly need and want. A clear example of this was the complimentary drink at the Garden Party after the graduation ceremonies—NMIT didn't realize how important this small gesture was to students' celebrations because they hadn't asked.

As the Student Representative body for NMIT students, SANITI exists to advocate for your needs. But it's up to you, the students, to make your voices heard. If you don't clearly express who you want services from and what those services should be, decisions will be made for you based on assumptions. The key question for 2025 is: *What do we want? Who do we want it from? And how do we want it delivered?*

Looking ahead to 2026, we must consider the sustainability and survival of SANITI. Over the past three years, we have fought to provide essential services, ensure joint decision-making with students, and secure student representation at every level. Now, we ask students to think critically about the future: **Who do you want providing the services that make study easier? Who will advocate for the support and pick-me-ups that help you push through each term?** If SANITI is no longer there to champion student needs, what will studying at NMIT look like?

Your student representative body (SANITI) is well respected within tertiary education and the Student Executive would like to see SANITI receive the same support and collaboration as other student association in the tertiary sector.

THANK YOU – Sponsors, supporters, Executive, Advisory Board and Staff

SANITI would like to take the opportunity to thank our sponsors and supporters in 2024, on behalf of the ākonga/student body, and looks forward to working with them throughout 2025. SANITI's functionality relies on the relationships that the team has built with local and national businesses and organisations over the last 22 years.

**BUWT
Culture**

**Kombucha Bros
McDonalds Nelson**

**State Cinema Nelson
Sakim Sushi Blenheim**

Custom Copy
Cooper and Savage
Delicia Ice Cream Café
Dilmah
Dolce Café Restaurant & Bar
Event Cinemas Blenheim
Found Directory
Hakuna Matata Café
Harraways Oats
Indomie
INP

MiGym
Nelson Bay's Community Law
Nelson Community Food Bank
Nikau Apartments
NMIT
Paper Plus Nelson
Period Place
Pit Stop Nelson
Speedy Print
Sports Therapy

Sal's Pizza Nelson & Richmond
StudyLink
Te Pūkenga
Te Piki Oranga – Police
Community Grant
Teaology Nelson and Blenheim
Top of the South Foundation
Triple One Care
Two Thumb Brewery
Waka Abel Tasman

Update

2025 Strategic Plan and Budget – SANITI has now received confirmation of the 2025 SLA funding. SANITI in Term 2, will be working to identify any potential savings and alternative revenue sources to support the delivery of Strategic Goal 3.

SANITI would like to acknowledge and thank the Advisory Board members, Scott Tambisari, Tony Gray and Jackie Britz for their time, expertise and professional input in 2024.

Thank you to the SANITI executive who have been willing to step up to the challenges, took initiative and were proactive in their roles, all while studying through the changing landscape that was 2024.

I want to offer my personal thanks to the SANITI team, who have not only continued to provide the outstanding support services that they do for all our students, but enabled and empowered my development as your Student President and helped me survive as a student, I passed all of the things! To that end thank you to all the staff involved in 2024, Alison Hart, Jaycob Brown, Duncan Dunbar, Angela Christieson, Megan Riddell, Kate Rees, Maisie Pestell, Ashleigh McNeilly, Tamsin Clark, and Justin McComb-Kennedy for the outstanding work.

Ngā mihi nui



Max Devon
Student President