

Report on material hardship and impacts on ākongā wellbeing and educational outcomes: Bachelor of Applied Social Work (BASW) and Bachelor of Nursing Studies, Tai Tokerau Wānanga, NorthTec, 2021

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Abstract:

The aim of the study was to explore the experiences of material hardship and deprivation amongst ākongā enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Social Work and the Bachelor of Nursing degrees at Tai Tokerau Wānanga (NorthTec). NorthTec is located within the Tai Tokerau rohe (Northland Region) which is characterised by a cultural richness imbued by Māori tāngata whenua (Indigenous people of the land) status but low in socioeconomic resources. Using a mixed-method approach, ākongā (students, learners) participated in an online survey questionnaire based on the DEP-17 index, which is designed by the New Zealand government to measure a series of non-income standard-of-living items. Qualitative data was obtained from a small group of randomly selected students who were interviewed kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) using a semi-structured questionnaire. Analysis of the data shows clear patterns of material hardship and deprivation along with psychological stress. The findings are consistent with previous studies and show ākongā employ similar coping strategies. The findings of the study are intended as a basis for highlighting ākongā circumstances and to further explore ways in which hardships can be feasibly addressed within the social work and nursing programmes.

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