

The Five Principles of Te Kaupapa Whaioranga

MANA ATUA, MANA TANGATA

1 Decision-making must be democratic, equitable and inclusive.

MANA WHENUA

2 Tertiary education should foster a sense of belonging, innovation and creativity.

MANA MOTUHAKE

3 Staff and students must have authority and influence over their work. Tertiary education institutions and their people must act as a critic and conscience of society.

AHU KĀWANATANGA

4 Staff and students must be able to collaborate and share their collective work with their communities.

MANA TIRITI

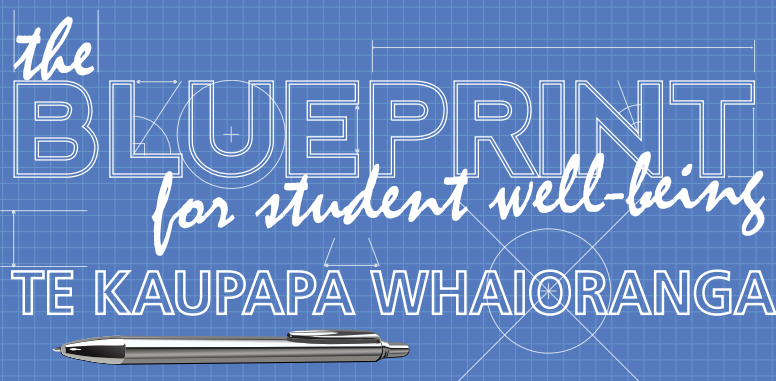
5 Tertiary education should promote participation, protection and partnership for all people.

Our public tertiary education system **belongs to all New Zealanders.**

We must ensure that tertiary education provision receives adequate **funding at all levels, in all communities,** and for all learners, whatever their current skill, aptitude and knowledge levels.

We must ensure that within our tertiary education institutions all staff and students have responsible **autonomy and academic freedom.**

READ TE KAUPAPA WHAIORANGA: TEU.AC.NZ/BUEPRINT



Tertiary education is a public good. Our tertiary education sector must receive adequate funding to meet the needs and aspirations of all learners, whatever their current skills, aptitudes and knowledge levels and wherever they live in New Zealand.

Protecting tertiary education as a public good means that we must enhance and promote the responsible autonomy of both staff and students.

Funding

1. Funding must ensure all current and future students can focus on their studies rather than economic survival.

Currently student allowances are means tested - primarily against parental income for those students under 25, but also in other ways, such as spousal income. This leaves many students and their families in poverty, and the result is those genuinely in need do not receive a level of support that allows full access to, and participation in, tertiary education. Many potential students are excluded from the opportunity to learn.

Te Kaupapa Whaioranga asserts we must introduce universal student allowances, funded through progressive taxation increases, and that those allowances should be at a level that is enough for students to live decently. Student poverty has to end, and our first funding focus must be to ensure this happens.

Our recommendations include:

- a. Recognising students' fees are a significant financial barrier to education for many people and committing to eliminate that barrier.
- b. Raising the parental income threshold for student allowances.
- c. Increasing the amount student loan borrowers can access for living and study costs.
- d. Addressing equity issues which limit access and participation, caused by current student loan and allowance policies. By working towards a universal student allowance and removing the need for student loans we can remove the causes of inequitable student debt.

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“The government’s objective broadly expressed, is that every person, whatever their level of academic ability, whether they be rich or poor, whether they live in town or country, has a right, as a citizen, to a free education of the kind for which they are best fitted, and to the fullest extent of their powers.”

C.E. Beeby, 1939

Decision Making

- 2 Student voice and participation must be actively promoted and represented in all decision making

Te Kaupapa Whaioranga states the voices of students and their representative bodies must be an integral part of policy development and implementation in the sector. Students have a right to be involved in decision-making that affects their involvement in tertiary education.

Voluntary student membership and changes to the composition of tertiary education institution councils in recent years has significantly reduced students’ opportunities to engage in decision making within the sector. This means students have restricted avenues to influence decision making, including in such fundamental areas as learning and financial support.

Our recommendations include:

- a. A return to universal democratic student representation with elected representatives who can speak at the institutional and system-wide level on behalf of all students;
- b. Student representative organisations being involved in national strategic planning for the tertiary education sector;
- c. Legislated places on the councils of institutions for democratically elected students to ensure strategic decision-making at the institutional level meets the real needs of learners.
- d. Students retaining the fundamental right to decide what kind of education they wish to engage in.



“It’s not fair that students are the only group in our community who must borrow to live.”

Lesley Francey

1999 STUDENT ALLOWANCE **\$150**
BUYS **55** BOTTLES OF MILK



2014 STUDENT ALLOWANCE **\$174**
BUYS **40** BOTTLES OF MILK



If the \$150 allowance had risen with inflation it would be \$215