

# SUMMER RESEARCH 2024/25

## PROJECT ABSTRACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

### PROJECT # 47

<b>SUPERVISOR/S:</b>	Dr Ange Stewart, Kim Hebert-Losier, Adele Williamson & Samantha Heath
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Identifying and collating resources to improve support and educational outcomes for students who are parenting children while studying at the University of Waikato
<b>FIELD:</b>	Nursing
<b>DIVISION/SCHOOL:</b>	HECS - Te Huataki Waiora School of Health
<b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b>	Both Hamilton and Tauranga

#### PROJECT ABSTRACT:

A proportion of the University of Waikato student population are parents, especially Māori and Pacific students. When student-parents are supported and are aware of resources available to them, not only can they achieve better academic outcomes, but their wellbeing improves. Many staff members also have young families or may become parents during their time at Waikato. Currently, there is no obvious, centralised location where resources are located and available to parents at the University of Waikato. This is not the case at other University sites. (e.g., <https://familyfriendlycampus.org/> or <https://www.aut.ac.nz/student-life/around-campus/childcare-and-parenting-support>).

Hence, this project seeks to identify and assemble resources already existing at the University of Waikato to support student-parents and assist Waikato in becoming a more family-friendly campus. The main aim is therefore to identify existing resources (e.g., changing rooms, feeding rooms) available across the Hamilton and Tauranga campuses by surveying & mapping spaces. This could also include potential gaps in available resources. The longer-term goal would be to assemble this information into a format suitable for a webpage that can continue to be developed and be shared with students/staff.

#### STUDENT SKILLS:

- Ability to work independently, reliably, and collegially with supervisors
- Interest in assisting parents at the University of Waikato
- Strong written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills
- Ability and willingness to talk to various stakeholders (human resources, facilities managers, ITS webpage)

#### PROJECT TASKS:

1. Survey the Hamilton and Tauranga campus for existing facilities and resources that support parents on campus
2. Map the resources available at each campus
3. Interact with relevant stakeholders at the University of Waikato, student parents, parents at the university (e.g., human resources, facilities managers, ITS webpage)
4. Review relevant literature on institutional facilitators and barriers to parents (especially students) in university environments
5. Design an academic poster and short evidenced based report that conveys the results
6. Design a preliminary survey (on Qualtrics) that could be tested and then used to explore the attitudes, beliefs, facilitators, and barriers of parenting and studying

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Student's Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the [Scholarship regulations](#))
- Database of parenting resources at the University of Waikato
- Research poster summarising the results from the study
- Expected Outcome 4 – Develop a pilot survey (in Qualtrics) that could be used in future studies involving student-parent populations
- Interschool and programme collaboration (Nursing, Science, Health, Sport and Human)
- Development of online resources (longer term) to support student parents at the University of Waikato similar to those available elsewhere (e.g., <https://familyfriendlycampus.org/> or <https://www.aut.ac.nz/student-life/around-campus/childcare-and-parenting-support>)

