

Tips & tricks

Connecting rangatahi to mentors in the area that they want to study in is a great way to support them.

It is always a good idea to recommend rangatahi apply to Studylink early to avoid any delays or complications.

Support rangatahi to photocopy important documents, and keep them in a digital folder to easily apply for courses. Some may also need to be signed and witnessed by a Justice of the Peace or lawyer.

Remind rangatahi to make adequate time for rest, relaxation & recreation during their tertiary studies.

Support rangatahi to regularly look for scholarships & reach out to the tertiary institution early if they are face any financial issues during their studies.

Tell rangatahi about the range of student discounts on offer for tertiary students.

Encourage rangatahi to utilise the full range of Student Support and Health & Wellbeing Services on campus.

Remember

Care leavers may need additional support in the application process, stick with them and guide them through it as much as possible, for example, by helping gather the necessary documents.

Funding & scholarships

There are several funding opportunities care leavers may be eligible for.

These can vary depending on the course chosen, the tertiary insitution or where the care leaver lives. Here are some good general databases to encourage a care leaver to search through:



Ministry for Education



Careers NZ



Universities NZ



StudySpy

Māori support

Iwi Māori may be eligible for a range of further scholarships.

Here are some good places to check options in this regard but there are also many different ones for specific fields:

The Māori Education Trust



Aotearoa Trust

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu



Pasifika support

There are also a range of general and specific Pasifika scholarships that care leavers may be eligible for.

The following resources are good places to check:

Pacific Education Foundation scholarships



Ministry for Pacific Peoples - Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Awards

Tagaloa Scholarships



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Improving access to tertiary for care leavers

A guide for Support Workers created by care leavers.

Whether rangatahi or not, care leavers face unique challenges accessing tertiary education. This guide is intended as a guide for anyone assisting care leavers interested in tertiary education to ensure they are equipped with the necessary information on how they can access & thrive in tertiary education in Aotearoa.

The Importance of a friendly voice

It can be easy to forget how daunting it is to start somewhere new, especially something as life-changing as tertiary education.

This is especially true if you have had a tougher start to life as many care leavers have had. Do not underestimate the importance of one good conversation, warm words of encouragement, or some additional support, when assisting a care leaver in their tertiary journey.




1 Course Advice

University, Wānanga and Polytechnic all provide great courses options but it can be tricky to know which one is best. The following resources can help:

CareerQuest Survey
that suggests career paths



 **StudySpy**
a course comparison tool

Careers NZ
advice from careers experts




2 University Entrance

Once a care leaver knows what course or courses they want to apply to, its important to ensure they meet or have a plan to meet the entrance requirements of the course. Encourage them to check the available course information online.

There is also further information available here:

NZQA
to check NCEA results, find a NSN and get information on UE




 **Youth Service's NEET program**
may be able to help if the young person is aged 16/17 and not in full time education Youth Service's NEET program maybe able to help if the young person is aged 16/17 and not in full time education

3 Financing Studies

Funding your studies can be one of the toughest aspects of accessing tertiary education- not only the worry about the initial course fees but also ongoing and unexpected expenses. It is important care leavers knows their options which include:

StudyLink
has information to assess the costs of study and apply for student loans and allowances



 **Independent Circumstances Allowance**

Fees-Free Study
to check eligibility for a free year of tertiary study



Further support for rangatahi

Encourage them to check out the **School Leavers' Toolkit**



Suggest they reach out to the prospective tertiary insititution for additional support in applying.

See if they are qualify for *Oranga Tamariki Transitions* support for eligible rangatahi between 15-25.

For more information: 0800 55 89 89

Pamphlet prepared by care leavers, for care leavers, as part of the Tertiary Education for Care Leavers Initiative: info@te4cl-nz.org