

Mike Hutton
fyi-request-27696-9ed41e26@requests.fyi.org.nz

15 January 2025

Dear Mr Hutton

In response to your OIA request asking for:

***“Total taxpayer money spent on Pasifika-related initiatives since the current Vice-Chancellor took office.
I requested specific details regarding AUT staff flights to the Pacific Islands, the salary and budget of the Pro Vice Chancellor Pacifica, the establishment of Pasifika-only study spaces.”***

AUT has the largest proportion of Pacific students at any university in New Zealand. 17% of our students are Pacific.

The taxpayer funded proportion of our expenditure for the Office of Pacific Advancement from 2022 to 2024 was \$1,009,691.

For context, AUT’s total expenses for 2022 were \$372,358,000 and for 2023 came to \$376,958,000 (source: AUT Annual Reports).

AUT does not have any ‘Pasifika-only study spaces’. AUT does have spaces where our Pacific students and staff are welcomed (some of these were in place for several years prior to the arrival of our current Vice-Chancellor). The spaces are open to and regularly enjoyed by students of all backgrounds and are not exclusive.

\$20,643 is the amount of AUT budget spent on staff flights to the Pacific Islands for the period April 2022 to November 2024. It is worth noting this includes non-Pacific staff who have travelled to conduct research.

Regarding the Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific’s salary, we are withholding this information under section 9 (2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of individuals. We note that our Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific role is not a full-time role.

Under section 28(1)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, you may ask the Ombudsmen to investigate and review our decision to decline to provide some of the official information to you.

Yours sincerely
Alison Sykora
Director of Communications