

17 November 2025

Eloise Fleming
By email: fyi-request-32646-f788b018@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Eloise

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2025, requesting information from Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology | New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NMIT). Within your email you advise that you are conducting research into “*Student Services Fees at different tertiary education providers, and how providers gather learner voice in determining fee allocations*”. You have requested the following information regarding Student Services Fees (SSF) - also known as Compulsory Student Services Fees (CSSF):

1. *The means in which learners or their representative groups are consulted about Student Services Fees, such as annual surveys, forums, student positions on SSF committees, and consultation on changes to significant SSF-related decisions.*
2. *A copy of the questions asked in any annual or regular surveys related to Student Services Fees (such as a PDF print out of survey questions).*
3. *How students are informed of the outcomes of such surveys and consultations, and whether survey responses are made publicly available or provided to students via other means.*
4. *A breakdown of the most recent budget allocations for SSF categories, such as the amount allocated to students' associations, health centres, sports, and pastoral care services. If this is unavailable, the most recent proportions of allocations to SSF categories.*

This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The decision

Your questions and NMIT response are set out below.

1. *The means in which learners or their representative groups are consulted about Student Services Fees, such as annual surveys, forums, student positions on SSF committees, and consultation on changes to significant SSF-related decisions.*

Ākonga (student) consultation is an important element in setting the allocation and the structure of the SSF at NMIT. It is carried out through surveys, consultation sessions, as well as connection opportunities with NMIT Student Executive and Programme Representatives and through the Student Association for NMIT (SANITI). More information can be found online at:

- <https://www.nmit.ac.nz/study/finance-your-study/student-service-fee>
- <https://support.nmit.ac.nz/kb/articles/how-much-is-the-compulsory-student-services-fee>

Prior to 2025 the NMIT leadership team consulted directly with the Student Executive and SANITI about the SSF. More information about both the Student Executive and SANITI can be found online at: <https://saniti.co.nz/about-us/>.

Based on feedback provided in 2024 we have now moved to a current ākonga wide survey approach. The current 2025 survey was designed alongside the Student Executive, who were consulted prior to its distribution. This survey has gone out to all ākonga via email and SMS. The information is also publicly available through our ākonga website: <https://students.nmit.ac.nz/home/student-services-fee-2026>. The survey is accessible to current ākonga with an NMIT ākonga email account.

Once feedback is received this will be anonymized, collated and provided to NMIT senior leadership for final decisions on structure and allocation for 2026.

2. *A copy of the questions asked in any annual or regular surveys related to Student Services Fees (such as a PDF print out of survey questions).*

The questions asked are similar year to year involving the setting of the cost, use of the fee, service provision and accessibility. Please find attached a copy of the most recent 2025 survey questions at **Appendix One**, titled *Have your say / Student Services Fee*.

3. *How students are informed of the outcomes of such surveys and consultations, and whether survey responses are made publicly available or provided to students via other means.*

Prior to 2025 decisions on SSF fee allocation and structure were shared with our ākonga via the Student Executive and SANITI. In 2025 both decision and survey results will be shared directly with all current ākonga via email, they will be published on the ākonga website, as well as shared with SANITI and the Student Executive.

4. *A breakdown of the most recent budget allocations for SSF categories, such as the amount allocated to students' associations, health centres, sports, and pastoral care services. If this is unavailable, the most recent proportions of allocations to SSF categories.*

With reference to section 18(d) of the OIA, a summarised breakdown of SSF funding allocation between 2018-2024 can be found within the ākonga website link above (<https://students.nmit.ac.nz/home/student-services-fee-2026>).

A slightly more detailed breakdown of spend for calendar year 2023 is also publicly available and can be found through the weblink provided above (<https://support.nmit.ac.nz/kb/articles/how-much-is-the-compulsory-student-services-fee>).

If you are interested, a breakdown of the historic SSF spend for years 2020 and 2021, including levies, expenses, surplus and deficit, can also be found online within previous NMIT annual reports.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

We may publish our OIA responses, and the information contained in our reply to you on our website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gus Gilmore".

Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive

Have your say | Student Services Fee

Your name:

Your email:

1. The current SSF for NMIT is \$260.76 per equivalent full-time learner. Other New Zealand polytechs charge between \$260 and \$731. This money is only to be spent on the categories outlined in the email. What do you think is a fair yearly amount for this fee? (Please circle)

- \$260 - \$300
- \$300 - \$350
- \$350 - \$400
- Other

2. Please rank which types of services are most important to you. Click on an option to move its ranking (1=most important, 8=least important - Print number clearly next to choice):

- Advocacy and learner voice (help when you need support or representation)
- Financial hardship help (food and petrol vouchers, financial support to see a doctor)
- Health and counselling services: doctor, services of a nurse, alcohol and drug counselling
- Career and employment advice: CV workshops, job hunting tips, connection to industry partners and opportunities
- Clubs, societies, and cultural activities: celebration of cultural events from across the spectrum of the learner population
- Childcare or parenting support
- International learner activities
- Sport and recreation opportunities: sports competitions, clubs and societies of learners choice, financial support to enter local sports competitions

3. Are there other types of support you'd like NMIT to consider? (Optional)



Have your say | Student Services Fee

4. Who do you think should deliver these services? (please circle)

- NMIT staff and support teams: Learner success and Te Puna Manaaki
- The Student Executive or other student-led providers
- Community led providers (not for profit organisations already established in the community)
- A mixture
- Unsure / I don't want

5. When choosing who delivers these services, what matters most to you? (1=Most Important, 5=Least important, please print number clearly next to your choice)

- Quality of service
- Cultural understanding
- Accessibility: easy to reach, across all campuses
- Independence
- Specialist knowledge

6. How would you prefer to be involved in these decisions? (please circle)

- Student representatives on decision groups
- Regular surveys with results shared publicly
- Hui or focus groups each year
- I don't want/need to be involved
- Other

7. Would you like to receive updates about how this money is used?

- Yes
- No

8.. What's one thing NMIT could do better to support your wellbeing and success?



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INFORMATION ACT 1982