Workshop title	• Action oriented discussion around student poverty applying a macro and micro lens.
Overview	• Student poverty is a critical issue that undermines educational equity and opportunity. Many students face economic hardships that significantly impact their ability to succeed academically. These challenges can include insufficient access to necessities like food, housing, and healthcare, as well as educational resources such as books, technology, and extracurricular activities.
	• Financial strain often leads to increased stress, reduced academic performance, and higher dropout rates. Addressing student poverty requires a comprehensive approach that includes increased funding for support services, community resources, and policies aimed at alleviating the economic barriers that hinder students' educational achievements and overall well-being.
	• This workshop will be delivered in two parts, each with a speaker on the topic of student poverty from a macro and micro perspective. Followed by small, focussed group discussions aimed to be solutions focused, via an interactive activity.
	1. From a micro perspective, student poverty manifests in the everyday struggles and decisions of individuals. For students experiencing poverty, each day can be a balancing act between managing limited resources and trying to stay focused on their education. They might face difficulties like coming to school without adequate clothing or supplies, which can impact their participation and confidence. A lack of access to a quiet, safe place to study at home can further hinder their academic performance. Additionally, financial pressures may force them to work part-time jobs, adding to their stress and reducing the time available for studying or participating in school activities. These personal challenges can create a significant barrier to academic success and personal development, making it essential to address these issues with targeted support and resources at the individual level.
	2. From a macro perspective, student poverty reflects broader systemic issues and socioeconomic disparities that affect large populations. It highlights the intersection of economic inequality, education policy, and social support systems. At this level, student poverty is influenced by factors such as income inequality, inadequate public funding for education, and the scarcity of affordable housing and healthcare. Economic downturns and shifts in policy can exacerbate these conditions, leading to higher rates of poverty among students. Addressing student poverty on a macro scale requires systemic changes, including equitable funding for schools, comprehensive social safety nets, and policies aimed at reducing income inequality. By tackling these root

	causes, we can create an environment where all students can succeed, regardless of their socioeconomic background.
Summary of workshop	• Student poverty undermines educational equity by impacting students' ability to succeed due to economic hardships, including insufficient access to essentials like food, housing, and educational resources. These challenges lead to increased stress, lower academic performance, and higher dropout rates. Addressing this issue requires increased funding for support services and comprehensive policies to alleviate economic barriers. • This workshop is divided into two parts. The first part will explore student poverty from a micro perspective, focusing on the daily struggles of individuals, such as managing limited resources, lack of basic supplies, and the pressures of part-time work. The second part will address student poverty from a macro perspective, examining systemic issues like income inequality and inadequate funding for education. Each segment will feature a speaker and be followed by small group discussions aimed at finding solutions through interactive activities.
Facilitators	• Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students • Marcail Parkinson, President, VUW Student Association
Speakers	• **Kevin Rowlatt - Associate Director of Mauri Ora (VUW Student Health)** Kevin has worked in the sector for 20 years and has helped Mauri Ora to become the only free student health and counselling provider in Aotearoa. In 2020, Kevin was awarded VUWSA life membership for his dedication to supporting students during the COVID pandemic and expanding access to safe and affordable healthcare for all students at Te Herenga Waka. • **Josh Robinson - Equity Officer at Te Aka Tauira (VUW Student Association)** Josh is currently studying Law, Public Policy and Political Science. Growing up in poverty and moving into student poverty has informed his activism on poverty for rangatahi at Te Herenga Waka. He has been a strong advocate for student poverty and renters' rights.

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