



Report from Te Kaunihera on Hoani Tapu

St John's Theological College

For the 67th General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui

Introduction

Te Kaunihera consists of five members: Matanuku Mahuika (Chair); Khylee Quince; Mele Tuilotolava; The Rev'd Dr Clare Barrie; and Jeremy Hema. Dr Andrew Picard is in the role of Acting Manukura, a role that he has performed since the middle of 2025.

As the members of General Synod will likely be aware, 2025 was challenging for Hoani Tapu, with Dr Hirini Kaa taking an extended period of leave in mid 2025 and then resigning as Manukura in October 2025. Dr Andrew Picard (previously Academic Director) was appointed to the role of Acting Manukura during this period. The circumstances surrounding Dr Kaa taking extended leave and then resigning were significant for the Hoani Tapu community. It required considerable time and attention from the Kaunihera, with the Kaunihera meeting almost weekly between June and October 2025. It also placed enormous pressure on the staff, faculty and students. We are extraordinarily grateful for the understanding and commitment of the Hoani Tapu community during this difficult time.

In 2026 the Hoani Tapu community is in a much better place. However, Hoani Tapu has continued to undergo change with a number of senior staff leaving the college and a review of the college underway as part of a broad review into the delivery of theological education within the Church.

We are also reviewing again the performance of Hoani Tapu against the outcomes of the Dean Martin Review into the college.¹

Curriculum Programmes

In 2025, Hoani Tapu began a new partnership with Ngā Hui Amorangi to deliver the New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies (NZDipCS) through Te Takawai network. This has resulted in the development of a positive relationship between Hoani Tapu and the network of Hui Amorangi: Te

¹ The Dean-Martin Review is available in full, together with a statement from the then Archbishops of our Province, at this link:

https://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/layout/set/print/news/common_life/sjc_reviewout. The Archbishops and the Chairs of Te Kotahitanga, Te Kaunihera and the St John's College Trust Board committed to full implementation of the Review's recommendations.

Manawa o Te Wheke; Te Ūpoko o Te Ika; Te Tairāwhiti; and Te Waipounamu. Each of these Hui Amorangi has been approved as a NZQA Permanent Delivery Site for the delivery of Hoani Tapu's NZQA qualifications, and the NZDipCS has been redesigned to be grounded in mātauranga Mihinare and local contexts. Alongside this partnership Hoani Tapu has developed Te Waka Tupu (Learner Success Team) who have rebuilt our enrolment, learner success, and quality assurance systems. Additionally, Te Takawai network has a governance group made up of leaders from each Hui Amorangi who provide oversight for the programme. There is also a learner success network, with a learner success staff member from each Hui Amorangi, that meets weekly to track student success and support.

All courses, course offerings, and assessments have been, and are being, revised. Ākonga learn through mixed modes of online and in-person hui, wānanga, and haerenga, and courses have been redesigned to integrate Indigenous knowledges with biblical and theological knowledges as well as the lived experience, liturgical expression, and whakawhanaungatanga of the hāhi. In the space of two years, Hoani Tapu moved from delivering a range of seventeen courses (varying from 15, 10, and 5 credits) with an average of five students per course, to delivering five courses with an average of seventy-two students.

Te Takawai is designed to be completed over two years at 50% study load. Outcomes have been significant and we are on course to graduate at least forty five students at the end of 2026. This represents an increase of over 500% from 2024. At the same time, there are areas to improve, in particular we are working on improving current completion rates which stand at 66%. Nonetheless, Te Takawai has been a positive and significant intervention for the College.

Formation

Alongside academic studies, formation is a vital aspect of learning for all students during their years at College. Although this was disrupted during 2025, and we are still working towards a balanced programme that meets the diverse needs of our student body, Hoani Tapu's residential setting provides a unique opportunity for immersion in an enriching, challenging and transformative environment as students form their pastoral identity. Te Waka Tūāpapa (Formation Team) oversee the Formation programme of the College. This includes Chapel, Te Toi Amorangi, Friday Formation, Ministry Placements, Chaplaincy, and Supervision. Along with the support of Tikanga Deans, ākonga have access to chaplaincy support from The Rev'd Dr Jekheli Kibami-Singh—Pou Wairua (Chaplain), and the support of our kaumatua The Rev'd Lloyd Popata. With Jekheli moving to Acting Tikanga Pākehā Dean, we have employed the services of an onsite counsellor each week to provide independent counselling support. Jekheli has taken responsibility for Friday Formation, and focused our time on formation for ordained ministry in various contexts.

Chapel has been redesigned by The Rev'd Mele Prescott (Pou Karakia) to reflect our Three Tikanga Church as an expression of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and a space for forming students in liturgical leadership in these commitments. Chapel follows the daily offices, with services in te reo Māori (3 days per week) and te reo Pākehā (2 days per week). We celebrate the Eucharist three times per week, and each tikanga has a week per semester to shape and lead chapel in way that gives expression to their cultural and diocesan/hui amorangi traditions. This year has seen a pleasing growth in attendance and commitment.

[Te Toi Amorangi](#) has been another vital development at the College in the last two years, which is led by The Ven Michael Tamihere. Te Toi Amorangi is a Global Anglican Leadership Programme that is grounded in Indigenous mātauranga that ākonga complete over two years. Eschewing the usual structure of a formation programme built around a full academic workload, Te Toi Amorangi splits the ākonga's time over the two years exactly in half: 50% dedicated to a theological qualification (usually St Johns' NZDipCS); 50% to the immersive work of formation—the holistic redirection of ngākau (heart), hinengaro (mind), and hanganga (habits) toward the life of Te Karaiti. Focusing on Aratūtohu (wayfinding), Karakia (worship), Hauora (wellbeing), and Kauhau (storytelling) the goal is to do our part in producing ministers capable of leading dynamic, Christ-centred communities through worship, storytelling, and sustainable service that fosters oranga ake—the flourishing of humanity and creation. In 2025, there were ten new students in Te Toi Amorangi, and in 2026 there were seven new students in Te Toi Amorangi.

Te Toi Amorangi ākonga have engaged in a range of wānanga and haerenga across the motu to Te Tai Tokerau, Te Tairāwhiti, and Te Waipounamu, as well as a haerenga to the Philippines to engage with, and learn from, Indigenous Anglican communities. This year, Te Toi Amorangi ākonga took part in a haerenga to Tairāwhiti named Te Aratoi Manawa. This was a five-day wānanga in kōwhaiwhai for people in formation for ministry, the first our church has run, convened by Te Rau College and taught by the tohunga toi Wi-Kuki Hewett. In Semester Two, Te Toi Amorangi will explore the remaining two blocks for the year: Aratūtohu | Wayfinding, facilitated by Dr Steph Rotarangi covering problem-solving, project management, crisis and conflict, and the role of culture in leadership; and Karakia | Worship, equipping students with understanding and frameworks for worship and sacred practice, concluding with a real-world application component and a full course review. These will be accompanied by two haerenga: Te Ara Pounamu, travelling from Christchurch via Arahura/Hokitika and Te Tauraka Waka a Maui/Bruce Bay; and Aro nui ki te ao, travelling to Te Aute Kareti and Hukarere Māori Girls College in Hawke's Bay.

Staff

The period since the last report to General Synod has seen a period of staff change. With the development of major new programmes there have been some new staff appointments. Alongside this, staff have also left Hoani Tapu, including a number of senior staff. This has led to a reduction in the overall number of staff employed at Hoani Tapu from 34 to 20 (comprising 14 full time roles and 6 part time roles). As a result, existing staff have had to adapt and stretch their roles and responsibilities to cover vacancies and gaps.

We are very grateful to our staff team who have worked hard to provide stability and continuity over a period of change. It also important to give thanks to our student body who have also been through a lot of change, and have themselves contributed to the stability and continuity of the College.

Finance

At the beginning of 2025, the former Manukura, Dr Kaa, sought an increase in budget from the Trust Board to fund a new vision, new programmes, and new developments. However, this

budget was not approved. Instead, a budget of \$5,146,114 was ultimately agreed and implemented.

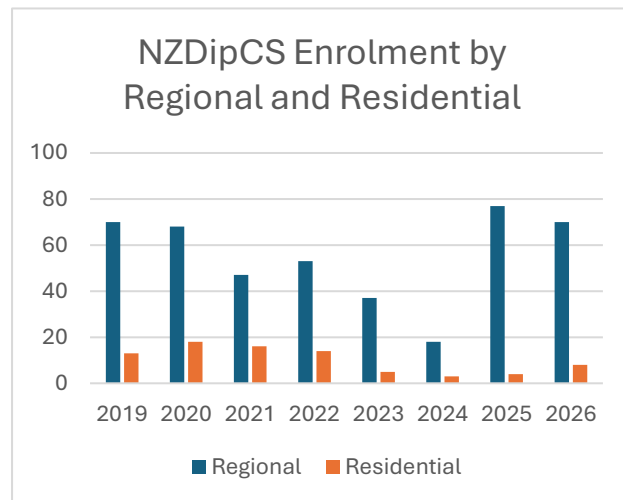
The College undertook a range of financial and planning measures to manage the College's spending. The outcome of these measures was that the actual funding distributed to the College for the year was \$5,040,004, \$106,110 less than the agreed budget amount. In addition, the College recorded an operating surplus for the year of \$17,206.

The combined figures mean the College's year end spend for 2025 was \$123,316 under the SJCTB budget of \$5,146,114. The 2026 SJCTB budgeted grant is \$5,165,000. As at 31 May 2026, expenditure is \$131,383 under the year-to-date budget. Some of this underspend is due to the timing of outgoings, but a large proportion is permanent. It is expected that this underspend against budget will continue throughout the year, especially with lower staff numbers within the College. It is therefore expected that the College will be under budget again for 2026.

With the development of two major new programmes, an increase in student numbers, and the expenses required to run and continue the development of the new programmes, the performance of the College against budget has required careful financial management. This level of financial management will continue to be required in order to ensure that the College is able to maintain its operations within the current tight budgetary environment.

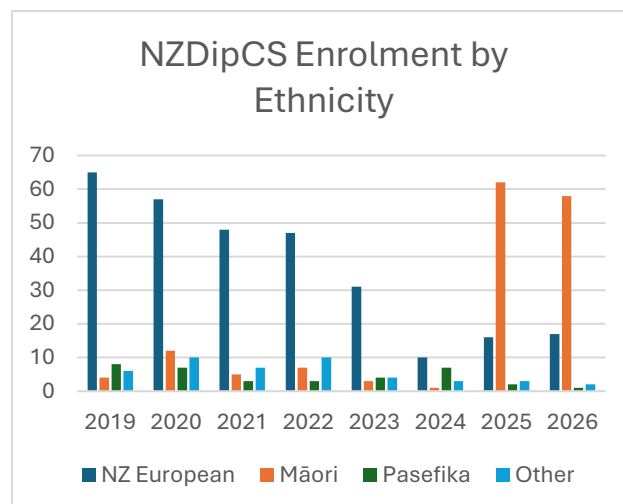
Below is the latest data available on our College. The student data is divided between our NZQA accredited NZDipCS, which provides insight into the changes brought by Te Takawai, and our residential students. The data is disaggregated according to ethnicity, tikanga, gender, Episcopal units, and regional/residential. The data is not our whole story, but it gives an indication of where our stories lie.

Te Takawai and New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies (NZDipCS)



Enrolments NZDipCS

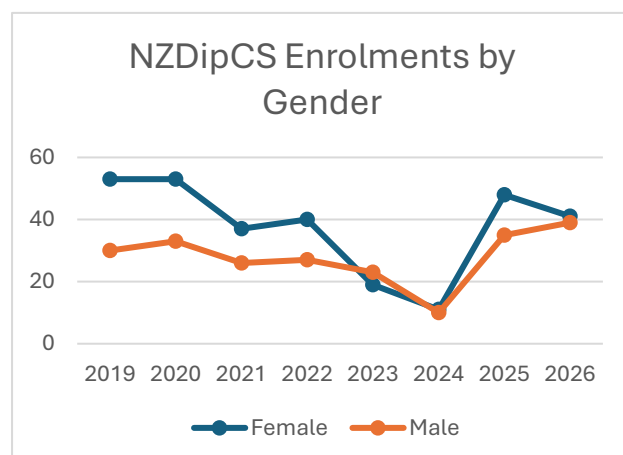
In the first year of Te Takawai, there was a 295% increase in total enrolments (from 21 to 83), and this increase held steady in 2026 (266.5% increase from 2024). In 2025, there was a 328% increase of regional students, which also held in 2026 (289% increase from 2024), and a 200% increase in residential students 2024-2026.



Enrolments by Ethnicity

From 2024-2026, there was a major demographic shift from primarily Pākehā to primarily Māori student body.

- 2024: Pākehā 48%; Māori 5%; Pasifika 33% and Other 14%
- 2025: Pākehā 19%; Māori 75%; Pasifika 2% and Other 4%
- 2026: Pākehā 22%; Māori 74%; Pasifika 1% and Other 3%

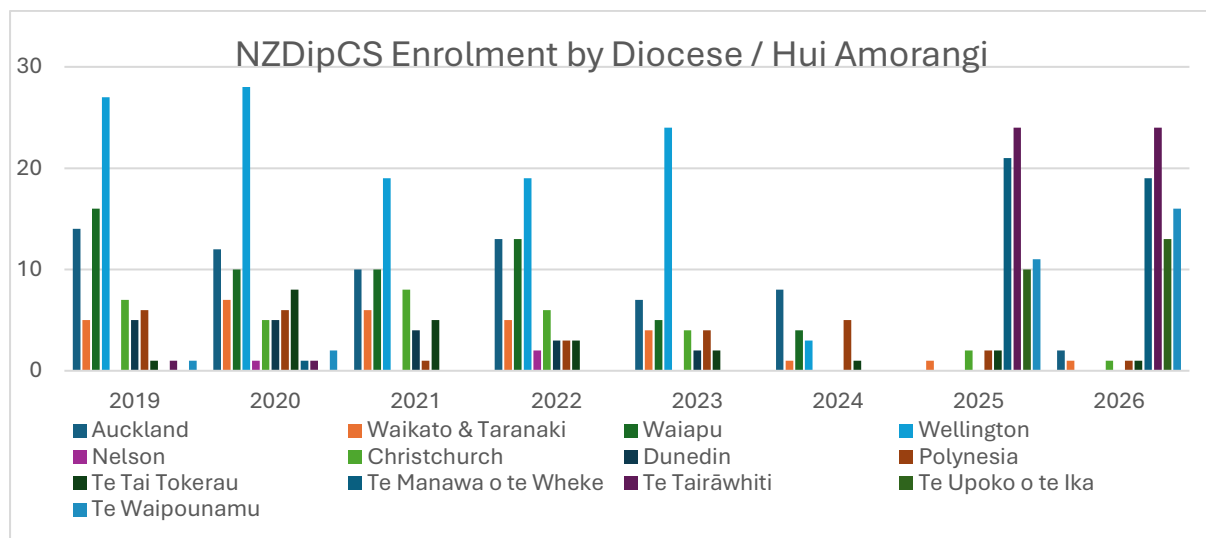


Enrolments by Gender

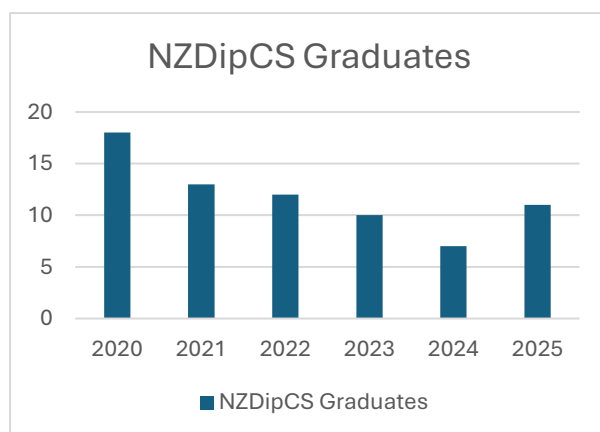
From 2024-2026, there has been an increase in male and female students. The gender balance has fluctuated slightly, but remains fairly balanced.

- 2024: Males 48%; Females 52%
- 2025: Males 42%; Females 58%
- 2026: Males 49%; Females 51%

Enrolments by Hui Amorangi



From 2024-2026, there has been a shift from a majority of students coming from Tikanga Pākehā Episcopal units to a majority of students coming from Tikanga Māori Episcopal units. Currently, the vast majority of students come from Hui Amorang involved in Te Takawai network.



Graduates by Year

The number of graduates has been in consistent decline, with some growth in 2025. We anticipate that there will be 45+ ākonga who will graduate the NZDipCS at the end of 2026. On projected numbers, this will represent a 542% increase in graduates from 2024-2026.

Residential Students

Total Residential Students

Year	Residential Students by Tikanga				Total
	Māori	Pākehā	Pasefika	Melanesia	
2024	18	8	14	1	41
2025	13	13	13	1	40
2026	18	11	13	2	44

In 2026, we have 44 residential students, and total residential students from 2024-2026 has grown by 7%. The demographic proportions of the College according to Tikanga in 2026 are: Māori (41%); Pākehā (25%); Pasefika (29.5%); and Melanesia (4.5%). In addition, in first semester 2026 we hosted an exchange student from Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong.

Gender Ratio of Residential Students

Year	Gender Ratio of Residential Students			Total
	Male	Female	Other	
2024	24	17	0	41
2025	25	15	0	40
2026	23	21	0	44

From 2024-2026, the number of male students remained steady, and female residential students increased by 23.5%. In 2026, the student body is 52% males and 48% females (2024: 58.5/41.5; 2025: 62.5/37.5).

Gender by Tikanga

Year	Females by Tikanga				Total
	Māori	Pākehā	Pasefika	Melanesia	
2024	6	6	5	0	17
2025	4	5	6	0	15
2026	11	3	7	0	21

Year	Males by Tikanga				Total
	Māori	Pākehā	Pasefika	Melanesia	
2024	11	2	10	1	24
2025	9	8	7	1	25
2026	7	8	6	2	23

Between 2024-2026, there has been growth in Tikanga Māori and Tikanga Pasefika female students, and a decline in Tikanga Pākehā female students at the College.

Between 2024-2026, there has been a decline in Tikanga Māori and Tikanga Pasefika male students, and a growth of Tikanga Pākehā male students at the College.

Graduate Numbers by Year and Tikanga

Year	Graduates by Year and Tikanga				Total
	Māori	Pākehā	Pasefika	Melanesia	
2024	6	3	2	0	11
2025	4	6	3	0	13
2026	7	4	6	0	17*

From 2024-2026, there is an approximately 50% increase in graduates from the College. 2026 numbers are pending due to a small number of extension requests.

New Residential Students by Tikanga

Year	Tikanga				Total
	Māori	Pākehā	Pasefika	Melanesia	
2024	2	0	3	1	6
2025	2	7	1	0	10
2026	9	4	2	1	16

From 2024-2026, there has been a 166% increase in new residential students, including a 350% increase in new Māori residential students. All new Tikanga Māori residential students in 2026 were wahine.

Gender Ratio of New Residential Students

Year	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Other	
2024	2	4	0	6
2025	7	3	0	10
2026	4	12	0	16

From 2024-2026, there has been a 200% increase in new female residential students. Gender ratios of new residential students by year (M/F percentages): 2024: 33/67; 2025: 70/30; 2026: 25/75.

New Students by Episcopal Units

Residential students come from 9 of 13 episcopal units, and we have had conversations with two more Hui Amorangi regarding residential students.

Year	Dioceses									Melanesia
	Akld	Chch	Polynesia	Te Tairāwhiti	Te Waipounamu	Te Tai Tokerau	Nelson	Waikato - Taranaki	Dunedin	
2024			3			2				1
2025	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	
2026	1	2		2	3	4	0	0	1	1

Students by Study Provider

Students by Study Providers							
Year	SJC NZDipCS	Trinity	Laidlaw	Otago	UoA	AUT	Ihorangi
2024	4	1	4	7	7	2	8
2025	6	5	5	9	9	1	2
2026	9	7	2	8	10	2	3

Since the beginning of 2025, there has been a focus on retaining students onsite for study as much as possible to better support their formation through learning in community and participation in community life. For undergraduate theological study, students have been enrolled into either the St Johns' NZDipCS or the Trinity College BTh due to its alignment with mātauranga Māori and Moana theologies. Hoani Tapu faculty teach across both programmes, and students are able to take courses for credit. There is also an open invitation for students to audit any onsite courses and have access to a wide range of content, which many have taken up. Students undertaking theological postgraduate study usually enrol at University of Otago or Laidlaw. Students who study non-theological programmes, in agreement with their diocese, attend University of Auckland and AUT. With these changes, there has been a noticeable increase in community life onsite.

Conclusion

Hoani Tapu has been through a challenging period for the staff, faculty, students and the wider Hoani Tapu community. However, it has emerged well from this period. Everyone associated with Hoani Tapu has worked hard over an extended period to bring stability to the community and to lay the groundwork for a re-set of the College's community life and educational offerings.

We are looking forward to continuing conversations about Hoani Tapu's future and the role that it might play in delivering on the aspirations of all tikanga.