



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



KARAKIA

*Tukua te wairua kia rere ki
ngā taumata
Hai ārahi i ā tātou mahi
Me tā tātou whai i ngā
tikanga a rātou mā
Kia mau kia ita
Kia kore ai e ngaro
Kia pupuri
Kia whakamaua
Kia tina! Tina! Hui e! Tāiki e!*

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INTRODUCTION



UniQ Victoria is Victoria University of Wellington's LGBTQIA+ representative and advocacy group. We offer social and supportive space for all queer students at VUW.

Our primary purpose to advocate on behalf of the queer students at VUW while also providing spaces and events that help queer students connect while feeling safe and supported throughout their time at VUW. We offer social spaces, movie nights, Pride Week events and a variety of other events throughout the academic year.

UniQ also aims to provide and connect queer students with basic services if you need some help finding good, queer support.

UniQ is proud to be an official rep group of the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association.

OUR 2021 TEAM



Rosie van Beusekom
President



Ciara Mitchell
Secretary



Miia van Beusekom
Interim Treasurer



Billie Angus
Social Media Officer



Alexander Johnson
General Executive



Crystal D'Mello
General Executive

VOLUNTEERS

Brock Stobbs (Discord Moderator)
Will Eland (Discord Moderator)

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

Tēnā koutou katoa,

This year has been an absolute whirlwind to say the least. We have experienced an enormous amount of change - from our Executive, to our staff contacts, to Covid alert levels. However, we have done some incredible work this year, and I have been overwhelmingly honoured to be a part of it.

We have held some ripper events this year. We kicked it off with the Welcome Festival and Clubs Expo, where we were positively overrun with students wanting to get involved with UniQ. We celebrated Wellington Pride by participating in the Community Hīkoi, then having some lunch together, which was an absolute blast. Then, we delivered an incredible Pride Week, polished off by our Gayla Ball, which went so much better than I ever could have imagined. In between the running of these events, we also participated in a number of events in the wider university space such as Sex Week, Re-O Week, and the Community Immunity vaccination drive. Then, of course, we have our weekly Social Space events this year, in which we have done some awesome stuff such as jewelery-making, origami, decadent DIY hot chocolates, and our infamous attempts at the Stuff Daily Quiz. It seems that at every turn we have been up to something epic, and it's been a dream being able to deliver these incredible experiences to students.

It's also been a massive year for advocacy this year, with UniQ being involved with a number of initiatives both within the university and out in the community. We have been involved in groups working on designing and implementing Titoko, the Pastoral Care Code, the Student Engagement Framework, and the new student portal set to be released later this year. We have also been involved in student feedback forums such as the Student Assembly, the Student Equity and Diversity Committee, Mauri Ora Student Participation Group, Wellington City Council's rainbow advisory hui, and regular Student Representative Meetings with the Vice Provost Academic. Through this work we have been able to secure some incredible outcomes for rainbow students, such as preferred names being printed on student ID cards and hidden legal names in the new student portal.

First and foremost, I've got to thank my incredible executive team. You have all been absolutely incredibly supportive and have worked so hard to advance UniQ for the better. A lot of curve balls have been thrown at us and a lot has happened behind the scenes, but you have handled each eventuality with grace and resilience, and I could not be more proud of you. I would like to thank the volunteers who have so graciously offered their time, their expertise, and their love to UniQ this year. Thank you for always having our backs and showing us such incredible support and love. And, of course, I would like to thank our student members. You have shown up in droves this year and have been so willing to support us through every high and low. Everything that we do is for you, and I'm so humbled by the opportunity to represent such a beautiful and colourful cohort.

Ngā mihi nui,

Rosie van Beusekom
President

TREASURER'S REFLECTION



Tēnā Koutou Katoa

I am writing this having returned to UniQ to fill an Executive Vacancy. Prior to starting, UniQ had outstanding payments dating back several years, due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been successful in meeting these outstanding commitments, and UniQ is in a financially stable position, with a small amount of operational reserves available for emergencies.

Progress has been made on instituting a Financial Management Policy to assist future executives with decision making around funds and clearly outlines a delegated financial authorities.

We have been fortunate this year to receive funding to cover the vast majority of our expenses at the time of writing. I would like to express gratitude to our funders; Victoria University Students Association, Vic Rec, The Rule Foundation, and the Rainbow New Zealand Charitable Trust; for their support in delivering our services this year.

Ngā mihi
Mia van Beusekom
Interim Treasurer

2021 FINANCES

PROFIT AND LOSS REPORT

All Accounts

31st September 2021

PROFIT

Clubs Funding	\$	2,300.00
VUWSA	\$	500.00
Rainbow NZ Charitable Trust	\$	1,000.00
Rule Foundation	\$	500.00
Fundraising	\$	1,227.50

Total Profit	\$	5,527.50
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LOSS

Meetings	General Meetings	-\$	43.00
	Executive Meetings	-\$	46.00
O Week	Snacks	-\$	40.60
	Advertising	-\$	153.50
The Ball (Gayla)	Venue Hire	-\$	1,190.00
	Catering	-\$	1,000.00
	Advertising	-\$	20.00
	General Expenses	-\$	155.00
Pride Week	Venue Hire	-\$	200.00
	Advertising	-\$	60.07
	General Expenses	-\$	190.60
General	Discord Nitro	-\$	171.94
	Maintenance of Materials	-\$	139.63

Total Loss	-\$	3,456.34
Net Profit	\$	2,071.16

BALANCE SHEET

All Accounts

5th October 2021

ASSETS

Bank	\$	2,965.96
Fixed Assets	\$	-

Total Assets	\$	2,965.96
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LIABILITIES

Grants received in advance	\$	729.82
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Total Liabilities	\$	729.82
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Net Assets	\$	2,236.14
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ONGOING PROJECTS

WEEKLY SOCIAL SPACES

This year we continued to run our Friday Social Spaces. We held them every week during the trimester 1 and 2 teaching period from 10am until 3pm. These regular events are designed to be a casual environment for rainbow students to drop in on at their leisure to connect with other students with shared identities and experiences. This year we hosted a range of activities at our Spaces such as jewelery-making, origami, DIY hot chocolates, and quizzes. At our final space for the year, our 2021 cohort made some cards for the first year students that would be joining us this year.

DISCORD

We now have 253 members on our Discord Server with 40 active channels. The server was created during the first lockdown in 2020 in order to have an online platform for our members to remain connected throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout the changes in alert levels this year, the server has remained an integral part of UniQ's operations and have proven to be enormously beneficial to members. Along with its chat features allowing for our members to communicate freely about a vast variety of topics, it has also become a channel to advertise our events, post university notices, and to host online events.





SALIENT

The team at Salient have been absolutely brilliant this year and we have been honoured to have so many opportunities to work in partnership with them this year. We resumed our regular column for this year, publishing pieces by our executives and members alike.

Working with Salient to develop this year's issue of Queerlient was an absolute blast. This year's issue took a more community-based approach, with writing pieces and artwork being submitted by an enormous number of people from throughout our expansive and intersectioning community. Queerlient offers us the chance to act as a prism, showcasing all parts of the rainbow community on campus. We look forward to working with the team again next year.

OFFICE SPACE

We are absolutely delighted to have acquired an office space this year! This serves as a central hub for UniQ operations, a place where we can hold meetings, a set location where students can find executives and have a chat, and as a quiet space for executives and members alike to get work done on campus.

We share the space with the Disabled Students Association as part of a pilot Student Representative Space arrangement. Having the space be made available to us has been fantastic, and we really do hope that we are able to stay in there for some time longer.

ADVOCACY



RAINBOW SPACE

This year we have continued pushing for a dedicated Rainbow Space for students to come to for study, events, meeting people, and accessing support. This was an initiative that we have already pushed for several years, supported by the former Rainbow and Inclusion Adviser, Georgia Andrews. Her departure in May of this year meant that we lost a lot of momentum and pushing power. However, VUWSA have been absolutely phenomenal and really helped us to get that momentum back. We have met with the team who are conducting a spatial audit of the Student Union building to relay our needs, and have got our sights on a space close to our office to utilise as a potential pilot space. We are really looking forward to seeing this initiative come to fruition.

ID CARDS AND STUDENT PORTAL

After many years of hard mahi and fierce advocacy, we made some major headway in a long-standing campaign of ours. We have finally secured the ability to have students' preferred names printed on student ID cards! This is not only a massive step forward for all trans and non-binary students, but all students at Te Herenga Waka. We would like to thank Georgia Andrews, Stuart Brock, Pam Thorburn, and the Admissions and Enrollment team for all their work on this.

In conjunction to this, we have also been involved in the redesign of the online student portal, which is set to be released later this year. We have worked hard to ensure that the preferred names of students are front-and-centre of this new design, and are eagerly anticipating the portal's launch. We would like to thank Henrik Lau for not only asking for our input, but listening.

SUBMISSIONS

We have had a massive year for submissions, both inside and outside the university. We made a joint submission on the Conversion Practises Prohibition Legislation Bill in conjunction with UniQ Waikato, SPACE Lincoln, QCanterbury, and UniQ Otago, which was submitted in both oral and written form. We also completed a solo written submission on the Birth, Deaths, and Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill.

As part of Student Assembly, we were also able to submit on a number of university projects and policies, such as the proposed changes to the Student Service Levy, the Student Engagement Framework, and Titoko.

MEETINGS WITH STUART

One particularly excellent channel for direct student feedback has been through fortnightly student representative meetings with the Vice Provost Academic Stuart Brock. These meetings are awesome for bringing up any issues facing students to a member of the Senior Leadership team directly, and for asking questions and holding the university accountable. These meetings were instrumental in pushing for preferred names to be printed on ID cards, and pushing for the involvement of UniQ in the appointment of the new Rainbow and Inclusion Adviser, and giving direct feedback on course delivery and content.



STUDENT EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Student Equity and Diversity Committee (SEDC) is a VUWSA initiative to gather together representative groups with an equity focus to consult on issues affecting students of diverse populations. In previous years it has allowed equity groups a forum to bring forth issues amongst their student cohorts and to organise a unified voice to challenge the university on its inclusion strategies and the delivery of those strategies in practice.

This year the Student Equity and Diversity Committee focussed more on working inwardly to establish terms of reference for the group and to develop mandate within the university. However these terms and the overall direction of SEDC were not established until quite late into the year. This is something we will be challenging VUWSA on in the coming year as we do not feel that this has been a worthy use of VUWSA's time or resources, nor the volunteered time of the students in attendance.

STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Student Assembly is a large council of students from groups across all campuses, representing different equity groups and faculties. It is a forum of collective student voice that provides robust feedback on university policies, consults with university staff on large-scale structural changes, and composes submissions on community initiatives. This year Student Assembly has been fantastic for creating unified student voice on all the many proposed changes to university operations. It has ensured that making our voices heard has been easy and relatively stress-free, and has fostered connections between student groups that would not ordinarily have contact. We would like to thank this year's VUWSA President, Michael Turnbull, for making the Student Assembly so very effective this year.

EVENTS

WELCOME FESTIVAL

The Welcome Festival was our first big event to kick off the year. We hosted a stall alongside Rainbow and Inclusion and planned to have a picnic at the festival for attendees to come and join. However we were absolutely overwhelmed with students at the stall for the entirety of the day, to the point where it was much too hectic to have a picnic! We took around 300 sign-ups that day and some pretty bad sunburn to boot.



CLUBS EXPO

Both rounds off Clubs Expo this year were an absolute blast and we are so grateful to Peter and Lara for putting on such awesome events. Trimester 1 Clubs Expo saw an enormous amount of interest and another 150+ sign-ups. At the Trimester 2 Clubs Expo we ran a bake sale on one of the days to fundraise for our Pride Week events.

RAINBOW STUDENTS WELCOME

Unfortunately this year, due to the changing Covid-19 alert levels, the Rainbow Students Welcome needed to be moved online at very short notice. However, the event still had an awesome turnout and we gained a flurry of new members. Thank you so much to Georgia Andrews for running the event and managing to mobilise the entire event online so quickly and so well.

COMMUNITY PRIDE HĪKOI

This year we chose not to participate in the Out In The City event and instead opted for joining the Community Pride Hīkoi. Although the weather wasn't the best on the day, the rain held off long enough for the hīkoi down to the Michael Fowler Centre to be completed. We then left the venue with our members and headed to have kai together at Enigma Cafe. We had an absolute blast and the event will continue to be a treasured memory for executives and members alike.

SEX WEEK

Sex Week this year saw us celebrate the role that sex workers took in the fight for rainbow liberation. This was done through the creation of new resources, such as a showcase of instrumental sex workers both past and present, and tips on how to be a good customer when dealing with sex workers. We were fortunate enough to have our stall alongside the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective, who share a lot of our kaupapa. The event itself was more quiet than other events we have held this year, however we still thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and are proud of our achievements.

PRIDE WEEK

Pride Week 2021 was absolutely phenomenal. We held six events, spanning over five days, including a Tea Party, a Quiz Night, and a Watch Party on our UniQ Discord server. Although it was an absolutely hectic week, we really pulled through to deliver a stunning lineup, resulting in some really good engagement and further feedback. We would like to thank our members for their support, their aroha, and for showing up as your wonderful selves.



GAYLA BALL

The Gayla Ball was the final event of Pride Week, and was something we had really wanted to do for a long time. The night went absolutely tremendously, despite some initial prom-night awkwardness. We learned a lot by running this event and look forward to making it bigger and better next year. We wish to give enormous thanks to Jack and the team at Hunter Lounge!

COMMUNITY IMMUNITY

In light of the ongoing stress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent Delta strain outbreak, a handful of student equity groups banded together with VUWSA to put together a mass vaccination drive event in the Kelburn campus Hub. There were food trucks, live performances, and prizes to be won, as well as lots of freebies. The 3-day event saw over 400 students vaccinated.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



UniQ Victoria would like to acknowledge our various funders this year. Your support has allowed us to continue to deliver support and events to our community throughout this year.



Rainbow New Zealand
Charitable Trust



UniQ 2021