



**For immediate release:**

**Rally for Lower Rents at the University of Auckland**

On 06 October, 2023, Students For Fair Rent will hold a rally demanding that the University of Auckland | Waipapa Taumata Rau lower the rent at its student accommodation to ease the cost of living for students. The petition, demanding the same thing, will be handed to the University.

“It is a known fact that students are among the most susceptible to the cost of living crisis. Many students struggle daily to choose between buying food and paying their rent. To make matters worse, the University of Auckland has decided to increase the rent at its accommodations by an average of 8% in 2024. As an example, Waipārūrū Hall, a first-year catered hall, is increasing from \$470 pw (2023) to \$510 pw (2024),” says Matthew Lee, Chair of Students For Fair Rent.

“This 8% increase is not in line with the rate of inflation at 6.7%. It makes the University of Auckland Halls of Residence the most expensive student accommodation in the country and is far above the average rent in Auckland Central. Student loans or allowances are simply not enough to cover rent.

“While the University made a record \$130 million in excess profits in 2021, students have to work part-time jobs just to pay for necessities. This takes precious time away from attending lectures, doing readings and assignments, or having fun with friends. Students are being robbed of a uni experience because of their financial struggles. Even with a Student Loan, students would have to work up to ten extra hours just to cover rent, and that doesn't include other necessities or tuition fees. The University is a tertiary education institution, not a business, and its students are not consumers or customers. They must prioritise student wellbeing and make the students their focus.

“As a part of the petition, we want the University to implement three metrics of fairness to measure all future rent and rent increases against. They are:

- Using the rate of inflation as a guide of how much rent is to be increased (e.g. not exceeding the rate of inflation)
- Measuring the rent against the average rent prices in the Auckland Central area (e.g. not being higher than the average rent by a certain amount)
- Calculating the income support given by the Government (i.e. Student Loans and Student Allowance)

With these simple metrics, the University can ensure its students have access to safe, secure, and affordable accommodation on campus, which students rely on to provide.”

Students For Fair Rent is a student-led organisation fighting for safe, secure, and affordable accommodation on campus. We strongly oppose the University's unfair and disproportionate rent increases and urge them to stop exploiting their students by decreasing their rent. We have been working with politicians in Auckland from both sides of the aisle and are incredibly grateful for their support.

The rally will include speakers from various organisations, politicians and candidates in Auckland. Further details are as follows:

**Date:** 06 October, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Location:** Outside the University of Auckland Clock Tower

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