

My Whitireia family

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I started as a learning advisor in February 2001 😊

I hear you but it all started when I was an IT Student from 1993 to 1996. I was able to engage with classmates with academic support through different parts of our journey. I did not know that there was an option to provide Peer Support within our programme without the conversation in class – which then led to being employed under a contract, in 1995 with Whitireia. The purpose was to support a classmate and, funny enough, led to multiple times throughout the course timetable with other classmates as well. My point: what that meant was as a group with support – we were able to graduate together and gain a National Diploma in IT. Next, in order to complete my IT Degree, I signed up with CIT (Trentham Base) for another year. So, it was back and forth from Porirua to Trentham on the train.

Honestly, I do not know how it happened, but there was a conversation with the Learning Support Manager of the time (I'm guessing it was based on our engagement while I was doing Peer Support Contracts previously), and she offered me a Learning Support Position, so I started from February 2001 as stated above 😊

When I started, due to my IT Degree, I was a Learning Advisor (STEM) – Science, Technical, Engineering and Mechanical. Specialist roles like that one have since been disestablished to be Learning Advisors in general, which cover all areas of our duties and responsibilities.

Regarding technologies that have impacted my practice, I went to an AI workshop on Wednesday 5th February 2025 called *Negotiating AI in Education* with the Health Tutors and Library staff onsite in Petone. Basically, we all seemed concerned about the subject of AI

accessibility and the students' ability to explain the information that has been found and how does that answer each question in a way that is acceptable in the marking rubric of each Faculty.

Honestly, I am not sure that we, as an Institution, will exist after this year due to the issues surrounding Te Pūkenga's existence, our 12-million-dollar expense, and how we will be able to survive after this year, especially since we have lost/closed programmes and associated courses, and quite a few staff have resigned.