



AOTEAROA NEW
ZEALAND STUDENT
PARAMEDICS
ASSOCIATION
(ANZSPA)

ANZSPA SIMULATION CHALLENGE

REPORT 2025



ANZSPA

20
25

This report has been prepared for the ANZSPA Simulation Challenge 2025. It includes remarks from the 2025 Vice-President of ANZSPA, insights from the event organisers, reflections from the participants, and a financial overview of the event. This report provides a comprehensive summary of the planning, execution, outcomes, and associated costs, capturing perspectives from all key contributors

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Co-Founder, Chairperson and National Sponsorship Officer for ANZSPA

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT



MELISSA CLARK

Deputy Chairperson & Co-Founder of ANZSPA

On October 3rd, Whitireia hosted the annual Simulation Challenge, where teams competed for the Te Herenga Manapou Trophy, an honour Whitireia proudly won in 2024. I travelled down with the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) team, as the representative of Aotearoa New Zealand Student Paramedics Association (ANZSPA).

The winning team was AUT. The AUT team was composed of Flynn, a fifth-semester student working under the Paramedic scope of practice; Coco-Sabine and Brianna, both fourth-semester students operating within the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) scope; and Dylan, a second-semester student working within the First Responder scope. Together, the team demonstrated impressive collaboration and professionalism.

Whitireia's Paramedicine facilities were excellent - well resourced, organised, and conducive to high-quality simulation learning. The event was attended by several respected figures from across the profession, including Andy Swain, Medical Director for Wellington Free Ambulance Service; Gareth Collings, Area Operations Manager for Mid Central for Hato Hone St John (HHStJ); Kim Bradbury, Watch Operations Manager for Palmerston North for HHStJ; Brendan Harris from Te Kaunihera Manapou; Josie Corkery, Extended Care Paramedic for Wellington Free Ambulance Service and tutor at Whitireia; and John Bruning, CEO of the Australasian College of Paramedicine.

The day itself ran exceptionally well, thanks to the hard work and planning of Jayden and Adyn, the event coordinators, supported by the Whitireia faculty. Their efforts enhanced the professionalism of the event, with scenarios well prepared and manikins set up in advance, allowing for smooth transitions between simulations.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Jayden, Adyn, Reuben, and the wider Whitireia faculty and students for their dedication to organising and participating in the challenge. Both Whitireia and AUT were represented with pride and excellence. A special thank-you also goes to all the judges for giving up their time to support the next generation of paramedics, and to the sponsors whose contributions made the day possible.



SPONSORS OF THE ANZSPA SIMULATION CHALLENGE FOR 2025



**Hato Hone
St John**

Manukau Area Committee



THE COUNCIL OF
**AMBULANCE
AUTHORITIES**

Australasian College of
Paramedicine

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our sponsors for their generous support of the ANZSPA Simulation Challenge.

Your contributions have been instrumental in making this event possible, particularly in helping to remove the financial burden from students travelling from Auckland to Wellington.

By supporting this initiative, you have enabled undergraduate paramedicine students from Auckland University of Technology and Whitireia to participate fully, build professional connections, and develop essential clinical, teamwork, and decision-making skills in a realistic simulation environment.

Your support not only strengthens collaboration between students across Aotearoa New Zealand but also fosters professional development and helps inspire the future leaders of the paramedicine profession. We are truly grateful for your commitment to advancing paramedicine education and supporting our students' growth.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE EVENT ORGANISERS

Planning the ANZSPA Simulation Challenge was a substantial undertaking that took approximately six months of careful preparation. This involved regular meetings with Reuben (Whitireia Lecturer) and the ANZSPA Event Committee, as well as coordination with multiple teams including marketing, administration, and other supporting groups, alongside countless emails to ensure all aspects of the event were well organised.

The meticulous planning paid off, as the day itself ran smoothly and successfully, with only a minor hiccup when an ambulance became temporarily stuck before the start of the first simulation!

Nonetheless, the overall experience was highly positive, reflecting the dedication and collaboration of everyone involved.

A special thank-you goes to all the judges for their time and expertise, including:

- Dr Andy Swan, Deputy Medical Director for Wellington Free Ambulance;
- Brendon Harris from Te Kaunihera Manapou;
- Josie Corkery, Extended Care Paramedic for Wellington Free Ambulance and tutor at Whitireia;
- Gareth Collings, Area Operations Manager for Mid Central; and
- Kim Bradbury, Watch Operations Manager for Palmerston North.

Their support was invaluable in ensuring the event's success.

– Aydn Wilson (ANZSPA Event Officer) & Jayden Upston (ANZSPA Secretary)



INSIDE THE WINNING TEAM



The Auckland University of Technology team was made up of Flynn Powell (Semester 5, Year 3 and Team Captain), Coco-Sabine Meikle (Semester 4, Year 2), Brianna Kennelly (Semester 4, Year 2) and Dylan Shannon (Semester 2, Year 1)



How did this experience help you build relationships with paramedicine students from other institutions?

This experience was a fantastic opportunity to connect with Whitireia students. From the moment we arrived on campus, they were incredibly welcoming, making sure we were oriented and knew where everything was. Throughout the day, there was a strong sense of camaraderie between the teams, with no negative or competitive comments, as everyone understood that we were “all in the same boat.” Sharing dinner with the Whitireia students after a long day was a highlight, giving us the chance to relax and get to know each other on a more personal level. I am also very grateful to our sponsors and the event organisers, as their support made this experience possible and allowed us all to enjoy the day and build meaningful connections.



How did you prepare for the ANZSPA Simulation Challenge?

Our team had around four practice sessions leading up to the challenge, with each session including approximately three simulations covering a range of medical and trauma scenarios. It was incredibly helpful to receive guidance and advice from the Semester 5 and 6 students during these sessions, which really supported our preparation.



How did the Simulation Challenge benefit the team's learning?

The Simulation Challenge was highly beneficial for my learning as a Semester 2 student. It allowed me to apply the skills I had been practising in a realistic, high-pressure setting, which reinforced my understanding and highlighted areas for further development. For the rest of the team, the challenge offered an opportunity to work alongside students with different levels of experience and perspectives, which strengthened communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. Experiencing the variety of scenarios together encouraged shared learning and allowed us to see how each team member approached decision-making and patient care. Overall, the challenge not only enhanced our individual skills but also fostered teamwork and a deeper appreciation for the diverse approaches within paramedicine.

– Dylan Shannon
(Semester 2/Year 1 Paramedic Student at AUT)



THE WINNING CAPTAIN'S TAKE

Participating in the ANZSPA Student Paramedic Simulation Challenge was an unforgettable experience. From the very beginning, I enjoyed not only the training itself but also the opportunity to meet and work with teammates at different stages of their paramedicine studies.

Traveling to Wellington added another layer of excitement, and visiting Whitireia's training facilities offered valuable insight into how another institution runs its programme. Comparing the similarities and differences in training methods, course structure, and equipment between the two schools, and learning from the Whitireia students' experiences, was particularly enlightening.

Leading up to the challenge, I felt a mix of nervousness and excitement. The short notice for training made balancing preparation with assignments and other commitments challenging, but we made the most of the time available. Stepping onto the Whitireia campus for the first time was intimidating, but the students' friendly, welcoming attitude quickly put me at ease. While spending more time with them after the event would have been ideal, I am extremely grateful that the trip was fully funded by our sponsors—without their support, attending would not have been possible.



Overall, our team's success came from understanding each other's strengths and limitations. Everyone had a role to play, and ensuring that all members could contribute equally to patient care was essential to achieving the best outcomes. The experience highlighted the importance of collaboration, communication, and teamwork in paramedic practice.

I would like to sincerely thank all the sponsors for supporting the trip, the ANZSPA team for organising our travel, Melissa, deputy chairperson of ANZSPA, for accompanying us, the ANZSPA organisers for facilitating the event, and the Whitireia staff and students for their hospitality. I am also grateful to the judges and support personnel who travelled to ensure the event ran smoothly, allowing all teams to focus on learning, performing, and growing as student paramedics.

This experience was unique and invaluable, and it has left me better prepared, both practically and mentally, for the challenges ahead.

– Flynn Powell

(Semester 5/Year 3 Student at AUT and Captain of Team AUT)



INSIGHTS FROM MĀORI AND PACIFIC MEDICS (MAPMEDICS) STUDENTS

Supported by Hato Hone St John Manukau Area Committee, three Māori and Pacific students, representing MAPmedics, were able to participate in the ANZSPA Simulation Challenge for 2025.



Participating in the Simulation Challenge was an incredibly valuable experience for us as Māori and Pacific students. It provided a unique opportunity to connect with other Māori and Pacific paramedic students at Whitireia, particularly those in other Simulation Challenge teams or the organising committee, while also bringing the Māori and Pacific students in our Simulation team together. This fostered a strong sense of community and shared purpose as we collaborated closely throughout the challenge.

The experience offered significant learning opportunities, including developing teamwork, managing complex scenarios, and refining practical skills in a realistic and supportive environment. Māori and Pacific Medics (MAPmedics) played an essential role in preparing us, offering dedicated spaces to practice simulations, receive guidance from lecturers, and build confidence and dexterity in applying key skills. This preparation enabled us to approach the challenge with competence and composure, making the experience both challenging and rewarding.

Overall, the day reinforced the importance of collaboration, skill development, and ongoing learning, while also strengthening connections and relationships within the wider Māori and Pacific student community across the paramedic programmes.

We are especially grateful to Farren and Melissa for organising the event, to our sponsors who made participation possible, and to all the judges and organisers, whose support ensured the challenge was professional, well-run, and memorable.

– Coco-Sabine Meikle & Brianna Kennelly
(Semester 4/Year 2 AUT Paramedicine Students and MAPmedic Students)



WHITIREIA TEAMS SHARE THEIR REFLECTIONS

The ANZSPA Simulation Challenge was an incredible experience and a highlight of the year. It was awesome to connect with student paramedics from across the motu (land/country) and put into practice everything we have been learning recently. The simulations were of exceptional quality, providing realistic and engaging scenarios that tested both skill and teamwork. The judging panel also offered valuable feedback and learning points that helped us reflect on our performance and grow as future clinicians.

Throughout the day, I gained a deeper understanding of my own leadership style and learned more about managing complex scenes in a pre-hospital environment. It was also a great opportunity to build connections with students from other universities, particularly those from Auckland University of Technology (AUT). Sharing knowledge and skills across different semester and year levels created a strong sense of collaboration and mutual learning.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who made the event possible, especially the sponsors whose support allowed universities from around the country to come together and compete. Overall, it was a fantastic experience that strengthened both our clinical skills and our sense of community within the paramedicine profession.

– *Carter Hewson*
(Year 3 Student at Whitireia and Team Captain)



Financial Overview:



ANZSPA Simulation Challenge 2025

Annalise Orchard - ANZSPA Treasurer 2025

Donations from Sponsors	
Council Of Ambulance Authorities	\$500
Australasian College of Paramedicine	\$500
Hato Hone St John Manukau Area Committee	\$1,000
Total	\$2,000
Travel Expenses	
Flights	\$1,580
Car Rental	\$202.91
Food	\$572.90
Certificates	\$14.98
Parking	\$49
Rental Car Electrical Charging	\$6.19
Prizes	\$300.94
Total	2726.92

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the ANZSPA Simulation Challenge was successfully delivered on budget, providing high-quality simulation resources and a valuable learning experience for all participants. Furthermore, to make this event possible, we have supplemented sponsorship contributions with funds from our own operational budget.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, the 2025 ANZSPA Simulation Challenge was a highly successful event, providing valuable learning opportunities for paramedicine students across Aotearoa New Zealand. This event would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors, dedicated lecturers, and the ANZSPA executive committee members. We eagerly look forward to organising the 2026 ANZSPA Simulation Challenge, which will take place at Auckland University of Technology's South Campus in Manukau, Auckland.

THANK YOU!



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www.anzspa.co.nz



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[@ANZstudentparamedics](https://www.instagram.com/ANZstudentparamedics)



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