

RDC Leadership Diversity 2026 Report

The LDD were held at MIT on Tuesday 11 Aug and UNITEC on Thursday 13th August .

Schools Involved

MIT n=115

Baradene	11 students
Ormiston College	10 students
Papatoetoe High	13 students
Seventh Day Adventist	12 students
Al Madinah	10 students
Marcellin College	10 students
Southern Cross High	10 students
Papakura College	10 students
Manurewa High	10 Students
Otahuhu Collge	7 students
Edgewater School	12 students

UNITEC n = 62

Diocesan	8 students
Onehunga High	10 students
Lynfield College	5 students
Carmel	6 students
Green Bay	10 students
Mt Roskill Grammar	12 students
St Dominics	11 students

Of the above, Edgewater, Lynfield and Green Bay were attending for the first time. All others were returning schools

Speakers (student, Kamatua and Leadership presenter)

<u>MIT</u>	Hindu	Saketha Jandhyala (past attendee from Ormiston college)
	Jewish	Jacob Shapiro (spoke last year as well)
	Christian	Alexandra Sommeffeld (Baradene)
	Baha'I	Justice Etzenhouser (referred by Kat Eghdamian)
	Muslim	Sayeeda Sharif (Al Madinah)
<u>Unitec</u>	Hindu	Aayush Sharma (past attendee from Ormiston college)
	Jewish	Jacob Shapiro (spoke last year as well)
	Christian	Elizabeth Flint (prerecorded, has spoken previously)
	Baha'I	Justice Etzenhouser (referred by Kat Eghdamian)
	Muslim	Asmaa Khan and Safa Kalawazi (Zayed students)

Each student presenter was given a \$35 Paper Plus voucher each time they spoke. The 2 Hindu students were reimbursed their Uber costs since they came on their own.

The speaker on Leadership was Rev Jordan Redding from St Heliers Presbyterian church. The students engaged well with him. Jordan was given a \$100 Prezzie Card for each venue

The Kamatua Manuel Beazley was given a \$100 Prezzie card for speaking at MIT and Kamatua Bobby Newson was given a \$100 Prezzie Card for Unitec.

Catering

67 pizzas (for 132 pp) were ordered and delivered from Flame Pizzas (Botany) for MIT. Delivery was prompt. Fruit and biscuits provided at morning tea. Catering amounts were sufficient

37 pizzas (for 73pp) were ordered and delivered from Pizza Club (St Likes) for Unitec. Delivery was 15 mins late. Fruit and biscuits provided at morning tea. Catering amounts were sufficient.

Staffing

The MIT event was the largest we have had for an LDD event. Ricky secured the help of 2 coworkers from MIT, Fi and Punau. This was immensely helpful both in the wharekai prepping food and coordinating pizzas. They also helped in the wharenuui in the mid-morning session. For an audience of over 100, ideal staffing numbers are 2 in food prep etc and 2 in the wharenuui. We only had 1 permanent staff (Ricky) in the wharenuui.

Fi and Punau also attended the Unitec venue. Since we did not have huge numbers as MIT, their help was good but not so critical. 2 staff in the wharenuui is needed, no matter how many students: Ricky to MC and 1 other to take photos, liaise with teachers etc.

Atmosphere

Students attending MIT were motivated and engaged. I believe the Human Bingo and the warmup activity at morning tea had a significant role to play and are critical. Students, while quite noisy, also asked searching and intelligent questions. Their comments and reflections indicated that they were engaged and listening. There were quite a few boys attending (10%)

The Unitec event was calmer and more subdued. The warmup exercise at morning tea did not eventuate due to the staff responsible being away sick. This group of students were mostly girls with few boys enrolled. The energy was not the same as MIT.

Feedback from Students and Teachers

This was all very positive. While all speakers were well received, the most popular student speakers were Alex Sommerfield and Justice Etzenhouser. Both spoke clearly and slowly. Some of the other student presenters were not so clear or spoke very fast.

A Zoom meeting in the week leading to the event was organized for all the student speakers. 60% were able to attend. Experienced speaker Jacob gave good insight to the newbies”.

Teacher comments included

- Swapping the mixed groups after lunch

- Timing in the yearly calendar is good ie August.

Student comments included

- Chairs for MIT (students sat on floor the whole time, whereas at Unitec, they had chairs for part of the day.
- Appreciated meeting students from other schools.
- Food was good.
- More active components to the day please.

Logistics

Parking at Unitec continues to be a challenge. We should not accept more than 8 schools due to these restrictions.

Mobile numbers of both student presenters and teachers were invaluable. Some were late and some got lost. Important to remember to get these details in advance.