1

00:00:04,480 --> 00:00:07,520

I grew up in Nelson and then I moved to Wellington

2

00:00:07,520 --> 00:00:08,920

about three years ago to attend,

3

00:00:08,920 --> 00:00:11,000

Te Heranga Waka, Victoria University of Wellington

4

00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:14,160

to study Japanese, Public Policy and Law.

5

00:00:14,160 --> 00:00:15,160

And then from there,

6

00:00:15,160 --> 00:00:17,320

I managed to get involved in student advocacy

7

00:00:17,320 --> 00:00:19,600

and I'm currently the VUWSA's

8

00:00:19,600 --> 00:00:20,920

Victoria University of Wellington

9

00:00:20,920 --> 00:00:23,160

Students' Association President.

10

00:00:23,160 --> 00:00:24,480

And the reason I got into this role

11

00:00:24,480 --> 00:00:26,800

is I was really passionate about student advocacy

12

00:00:26,800 --> 00:00:29,920

and making sure that education was more inclusive,

13

00:00:29,920 --> 00:00:31,560

accessible and equitable.

14

00:00:31,560 --> 00:00:33,840

I really encourage by supporting students

15

00:00:33,840 --> 00:00:36,520

or finding ways to support students financially.

16

00:00:36,520 --> 00:00:38,880

We're interested in welfare and engagement

17

00:00:38,880 --> 00:00:41,400

and how we can sort of bring all of these things together

18

00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:43,280

to really create a sense of community.

19

00:00:44,640 --> 00:00:45,880

Before I came to university,

20

00:00:45,880 --> 00:00:48,720

I was quite concerned

with the economic cost.

21

00:00:48,720 --> 00:00:51,720

You know, being a student that's

quite financially difficult

22

00:00:51,720 --> 00:00:53,600

to kind of focus on your living cost

23

00:00:53,600 --> 00:00:55,720

but also the cost of

actually attending university

24

00:00:55,720 --> 00:00:59,080

in terms of course fees

and also course content

25

00:00:59,080 --> 00:01:00,360

and things like that.

26

00:01:00,360 --> 00:01:04,600

I found out I was eligible

by going to feesfree.govt.nz.

27

00:01:04,600 --> 00:01:06,160

It was very easy,

28

00:01:06,160 --> 00:01:08,880

I just plugged in my National Student Number

29

00:01:08,880 --> 00:01:10,360

and I found out I was eligible

30

00:01:10,360 --> 00:01:12,640

and it was just such a simplistic process.

31

00:01:14,920 --> 00:01:17,000

I think Fees Free to me was really an opportunity

32

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:19,280

for me to remove some of those hurdles

33

00:01:19,280 --> 00:01:21,360

that came with attending university.

34

00:01:21,360 --> 00:01:23,280

And I also think it's gonna have huge implications

35

00:01:23,280 --> 00:01:24,960

in terms of reducing some of the stress

36

00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:26,600

that I have in terms of the debt

37

00:01:26,600 --> 00:01:28,680

that I will face in the future.