

Enhance your sense of self-worth, learn new skills and develop your potential at the Next Step Centre for Women

Opportunities for Women



**GET
SET**



ara.ac.nz

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“This course has changed my life and the way I live it. It’s been the most amazing voyage of self-discovery.”

Timetable

Please refer to the current timetable schedule for delivery dates/times of all courses: ara.ac.nz/study/next-step-centre-for-women/

Contact us at:

Phone: 03 940 8070

Mobile: 021 0246 9601

Freephone: 0800 24 24 76

Email: nextstepcentre@ara.ac.nz

Enrol

Fill out an enrolment form, available at ara.ac.nz/apply or visit our Next Step Centre and we can assist you with course selection and enrolment.

Note: Ara reserves the right to alter delivery dates for operational purposes.

If the date below is older than 12 months, phone 0800 24 24 76 for a more up-to-date brochure. At times we may publish more than one edition a year.

As at June 2026

Welcome to the Next Step Centre for Women Te Poutama Wahine

Ara's Next Step Centre for Women is dedicated to offering a wide range of courses to expand your possibilities and enhance your sense of self-worth.

Within our friendly, warm and supportive environment, you can learn new skills and develop your potential. Our courses will assist you to know yourself better, explore your options, update your skills and develop confidence in yourself.

The Next Step Centre for Women has been a special part of Ara for over 30 years. During this time, thousands of women have found their next step by participating in one of our courses.

We invite you to come in, have a look around and chat with us about study options.

Tangata ako ana i te kāenga, te turanga ki te marae, tau ana – a person nurtured in the community contributes strongly to society.

Jonathan Lynch
Manager





“After becoming a mother and feeling the need to reassess my life, I was encouraged to attend the New Outlook for Women course through the Next Step Centre at Ara.

Although it was a diverse mix of women, we came together to laugh, cry and debate as one. It was a place where new friendships were forged. Not only did I get to hear about the hardships of others, I was able to feed off their strength, encouragement and support to continue this journey on which I had embarked.

I entered into the Updating Skills course which enabled me to understand the requirements for employment, how to work with others and the possibility of further study.

I learnt about the structure and content of written work and, most importantly, it was here where I decided to apply for the Certificate in Community Studies. I received help in writing my application and, further to this, the support and encouragement I felt I needed to proceed.

I am now a Care & Protection Social Worker and continue the journey that began those few years before. It has been a long road and it all began at the Next Step Centre for Women.”

Leisha Sharapoff,
Graduate, Next Step Centre for Women

New Outlook for Women



City campus, Madras Street



Part-time: 12 hours per week for nine weeks



\$145



Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
9.30am - 2.15pm

Are you thinking about “where to next” in your life? Would you like to gain new skills so you can enter or return to the workforce, or undertake further study?

This course will provide you with the new ideas, experiences, confidence and skills you need to make that next move. You’ll learn in a supportive, interactive group setting, find direction and become aware of what’s important to you in life.

Course content

- Finding a direction
(e.g. paid work, community involvement, further education)
- Discovering your passion
- Self-awareness
- Confidence building
- Goal setting
- Visits
- Guest speakers

“I would really recommend that every woman take this course. It is uplifting and inspiring and taught me how to get the most out of life.”



April Green is a survivor of domestic violence. Now she uses her experience to help other victims at Te Whare Hauroa Māori Women's Refuge. April's journey began at the Next Step Centre for Women.

"My daughter was about to turn 18, I was turning 50 and I needed to get a life and find a sense of purpose," she says.

April enrolled in two courses at the Next Step Centre: the New Outlook for Women and the Updating Skills course.

"The courses changed my life in ways that made my future look clearer. I lost my shame and found my passion there. And my passion was to give back in the field of domestic violence prevention."

April Green, Graduate, New Outlook for Women



“During a meeting at a Women’s Refuge Centre, the coordinator told me about the Next Step Centre for Women.

I began with Self Development for Women. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and I decided to move out of my comfort zone and enrol in the New Outlook for Women course. In Term 4 I did the Updating Skills course.

Being in this safe and supportive environment allowed me to find myself. I spent those weeks among some of the most amazing women I’ve ever met – the wonderful tutors, staff, volunteers and my fellow students.

I decided that I wanted to be a registered nurse, working in the community, primarily in Māori women’s health. I enrolled in the Pre Health course at Ara which I passed with distinction and completed a Bachelor of Nursing. I recently accepted a position working as a district nurse. From small beginnings, one step at a time, I followed my dream.”

**Tania Hooper, Graduate,
New Outlook for Women**

Short courses



Christchurch



Part-time: 12 hours class time



Refer to timetable schedule for details of dates/times/locations/fees for each course.

Self Development for Women

This course offers an opportunity to enhance your sense of self-worth. You'll learn more about yourself and your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. It's ideal for clarifying your ideas and learning to care for yourself more effectively.

Course content

- Identifying the components of quality physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health
- Evaluating your health and identifying ways to change unhealthy behaviours
- Understanding change and the change process
- Evaluating your personal support system

"From learning about the power of change in this course I stopped drinking alcohol and smoking after 36 years."

Self Esteem for Women

Do you want to develop a greater sense of self-worth and the ability to better nurture yourself? By taking part in this friendly, supportive and active group you can work towards these goals.

Course content

- Identifying strategies for enhancing healthy self esteem
- Discussing strategies for self-care

Self Empowerment for Women

The aim of this course is to enhance your sense of personal identity by learning about your strengths and the influence your actions and thoughts can have over your life. Take the opportunity to build stronger connections with yourself and others, within a supportive group environment.

Course content

- Identifying your existing and potential strengths
- Identifying areas of your life you wish to have more control over
- Evaluating your communication style so you can communicate more effectively
- Appropriate responses to problematic situations

“Soul food, emotional food - a real tonic;
I feel strengthened, nurtured and empowered.”

Effective Anger Management for Women

Anger is an emotional signal that's worth listening to. This course is an opportunity to identify your anger triggers and learn healthy ways to process your anger so you don't hurt yourself or others.

Course content

- Identifying anger triggers
- Processing anger in healthy ways
- Applying anger management tools to personal challenges

Assertive Communication & Confidence for Women

This course will develop your ability to express yourself clearly and directly, to listen creatively, and to communicate effectively within a supportive and encouraging group atmosphere.

Course content

- Identifying characteristics of assertive, aggressive and passive communication styles
- Understanding non-verbal communication
- Assertive communication skills



Course subsidy information

Do you need help to pay for your chosen course at the Next Step Centre for Women?

If you receive a benefit from Work & Income, you may be eligible for Course Participation Allowance (CPA). CPA can assist with fee payment, childcare, travel and parking. Please talk to your local Work & Income office about whether you qualify for this allowance.

If you can't access assistance from Work & Income and you'd find the cost of a Next Step Centre course excessive, a portion of your fee costs may be paid from Altrusa's annual subsidy fund* (*subject to approval and availability*).

For further details regarding CPA applications or for an Altrusa course fee subsidy application form, please contact us on 03 940 8070 or email nextstepcentre@ara.ac.nz

**On behalf of the students who benefit from this assistance, the team at the Next Step Centre would like to express our sincere appreciation to Altrusa for their ongoing, dedicated support.*



Diane Harrington Altrusa Scholarship

The Christchurch Branch of the service organisation Altrusa International awards a \$1000 scholarship each year to a graduate of our New Outlook for Women course.

If you've completed this course and you wish to undertake further study, we encourage you to apply. Applications close in mid-October. To find out more, contact the Next Step Centre for Women: phone **03 940 8070**, text **021 0246 9601** or email nextstepcentre@ara.ac.nz

April Green (page 6) and Tania Hooper (page 7) were both recipients of the Altrusa Scholarship.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

ara.ac.nz

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Connect with us:

Connect with us here:

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