

# SUMMER RESEARCH 2024/25

## PROJECT ABSTRACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

### PROJECT # 7

<b>SUPERVISOR/S:</b>	Dr Lisa Tompson
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	What came first? The psychological distress or the victimisation experience?
<b>FIELD:</b>	Forensic Psychology & Crime Science
<b>DIVISION/SCHOOL:</b>	Te Puna Haumaruru   New Zealand Institute for Security and Crime Science
<b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b>	Hamilton

#### PROJECT ABSTRACT:

Recent research has found that vulnerability to re-victimisation in Aotearoa New Zealand is often associated with moderate to high psychological distress. However, it was not possible within the NZ Crime and Victims Survey data (NZCVS) used in that project to understand the temporal ordering of these variables. Otherwise put, we do not know if moderate to high psychological distress is a precursor to re-victimisation or re-victimisation is a precursor to moderate to high psychological distress. In this project, we will examine if we can use variables from other data sets in the Integrated Data Infrastructure (e.g., using engagement with government mental health services as a proxy for poor mental health) to ascertain the temporal ordering of these variables. We will also look at the victimisation history of the people included in the NZCVS, using police-recorded data to ensure that temporal sequencing is accurate. The findings will be useful to agencies who support people who experience re-victimisation.

#### STUDENT SKILLS:

- Background in Forensic Psychology or Crime Science
- Familiarity with data and basic analysis
- Aptitude to learn the R programming language
- Attention to detail
- Good communication skills
- Time management skills

#### PROJECT TASKS:

1. Background reading
2. Data analysis
3. Create research poster
4. Write executive summary of findings

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Student's Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the [Scholarship regulations](#))
- Executive summary of findings

