

'Let's Talk to Aucklanders' speaking group

Volunteer Guide

ABOUT THE GROUP

Let's Talk to Aucklanders (LTTA) is held on the first and third Friday of each month from 10am-12pm at the City Campus of the University of Auckland. Local (mostly retired) English-speaking volunteers are matched with one or two postgraduate students who use English as an additional language (EAL) for a series of 20 minute conversations, with a break for morning tea in the middle.



HOW STUDENTS BENEFIT

Participation in LTTA helps EAL students:

- ✓ develop their confidence and proficiency in speaking English
- ✓ connect with local Aucklanders who use English as their first language
- ✓ better understand the Kiwi accent and New Zealand culture

HOW VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT

Participation in LTTA provides volunteers the chance to:

- ✓ meet students from all walks of life and many different places
- ✓ share their insights about NZ culture and learn about other cultures
- ✓ meet other volunteers

GUIDELINES FOR CONVERSATIONS

- To ensure students understand, be prepared to slow down your pace of speaking and write key words down (if students cannot catch what you are saying).
- To make LTTA a friendly, welcoming place, choose to talk about 'safe' topics that everyone will feel comfortable with. (Avoid topics such as politics, religion, and personal difficulties, for example.)
- If a student discloses that they are experiencing difficulties (e.g., personal, financial, study-related), suggest that they talk with the facilitator of the session (who can direct them to appropriate support).

CONVERSATION STARTERS

If you're not sure what to talk about, here's a few suggestions!

What is your favourite public holiday? Why?

What do you hope to do in the future?

How do you celebrate birthdays?

What is a good place to visit in your country?

Is there anything you'd like to talk about today?

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If you would like to be involved or have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Jenny Jones
English Learning Adviser
j.jones@auckland.ac.nz
Ph. +64 9 923 1489

