

# Ara Institute – Te Puna Wānaka

Ara Institute of Canterbury

## Sector

Community

## Service

Main contractor:  
Structural  
strengthening and  
refurbishment

## Timeframe

12 months  
Complete 2020

## Consultants

Architect:  
Royal Associate Architects  
Other Consultants:  
Powell Fenwick

## Delivering innovation from the ground up

### Scope

As part of Ara's 10-year capital works programme, Farrell Construction was engaged to strengthen and redevelop the Te Puna Wānaka building. The project included modernised teaching and office environments, new breakout areas and a ceremonial entrance, and upgraded building services and landscaping. From the outset, the goal was to deliver to a standard that respected the cultural importance of Te Puna Wānaka for Māori students, local iwi and Pasifika communities.

### Process

Recognising the significance of the facility, Farrell worked in close partnership with He Waka Tapu, Ara staff, and professional consultants throughout. A four-phase, seven-zone programme was developed, enabling concurrent activities while keeping the campus operational. Careful sequencing and detailed planning minimised disruption, while open communication kept the project on track. All construction was delivered by Farrell's in-house carpentry team.

### Solution

Completed in time for Te Puna Wānaka's 25th anniversary, the redevelopment has given new strength to a building of cultural importance – a striking, flexible facility that commands a strong cultural presence while providing teaching and learning spaces for the future.

