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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **MEDIA RELEASE**  12 December 2024   |  | | --- | |  |   **AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND MEDIA OWNERSHIP REPORT 2024**  AUT’s Journalism, Media and Democracy Research Centre (JMAD) has released its annual review of Aotearoa New Zealand’s media ownership. The prevailing patterns of media ownership have been dwarfed by major tech corporations with trillion-dollar plus market capitalisations.  2024 saw several significant developments:   * Warner Bros. Discovery closes Three’s Newshub operation. * TVNZ closes down Sunday, Fair Go, Midday and Tonight. Drastic downsizing of TVNZ’s news operations unfolds with substantial job losses. * NZME announces the termination of 14 newspapers and numerous community titles. * Legislative passage of the Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill becomes uncertain. * The Spinoff announces a partial closure of operations and staff losses. * Closure of Te Ao Māori News as a daily bulletin announced.   JMAD Co-Director Professor Wayne Hope says 2024 was a momentous year. “A perfect storm of news operation closures and staff cuts in television, newspapers, magazines and print-online amidst economic recession damaged media organisations and journalistic culture.”  During 2024 prevailing configurations of media ownership—transnational shareholder- and private equity-owned corporations, private equity-owned corporations, private independent companies and Crown-owned broadcasters—were dwarfed by major tech corporations with trillion-dollar plus market capitalisations. Of these Meta/Facebook and Alphabet/Google exerted pressure on governments and news media organisations worldwide.  On 4 October 2024, Google threatened to delink from domestic news sites and discontinue existing commercial arrangements with publishers if the Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill proceeded further. Originally introduced in August 2023 by the Labour government, the present Media and Communications Minister Paul Goldsmith tabled a cabinet paper in support and declared responsibility for the legislation. Five weeks later on 13 November, however, Cabinet postponed the Bill’s second Parliamentary reading and legislative passage became uncertain.  “The slow intermittent passage of the Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill draws attention to the economic power and leverage of Alphabet/Google and Meta/Facebook,” says Hope.  JMAD Co-Director Merja Myllylahti says New Zealand’s regional and local news is in danger of dying without concrete actions. “There are new kinds of solutions for funding local news, but readers and councils need to do their part. For example, councils must urgently rethink their advertising policies.”  Useful links:  [Journalism, Media and Democracy Research Centre](https://www.jmadresearch.com/new-zealand-media-ownership)  ***For any media enquiries please contact:***  **JMAD’s co-directors are available for interview:**  Professor Wayne Hope 0211462942  Senior Lecturer Merja Myllylahti 0210665902  **Nicola Igusa**  Senior Faculty Communications Manager  Auckland University of Technology  **M:** +64 21 844 285  **E:** [nicola.igusa@aut.ac.nz](mailto:nicola.igusa@aut.ac.nz)  Auckland University of Technology (AUT) is one of the world’s best modern universities. Home to more than 27,000 students across three campuses, AUT leads Australasia in global research impact, with more than 60 research centres and institutes delivering leading research – from artificial intelligence to robotics, and ecology to public health. As a contemporary university AUT is connected to an extraordinary range of organisations worldwide; sharing expertise and resources, collaborating on ground-breaking research, and connecting students with industry leaders and employers. | |  | |