

Christchurch Earthquake: Information to assist your business

Our hearts go out to all those who were affected by the 22 February Christchurch quake. In the aftermath of last year's 4 September event and following the far more devastating quake on 22 February, it will be a long time and a lengthy healing process before peoples' lives are back to normal and businesses are up and running again. But it's in times like this, the true New Zealand spirit of resilience and unity is revealed. Together, we can rebuild a stronger Christchurch. We've had several individuals and businesses requesting our help to manage some of the immediate business issues they are facing. Following is a summary of information we think will be important to you.

KPMG Christchurch staff and families are all safe and are operating from satellite offices until the structural integrity of our office building is ascertained.

Click on the headings below to access further information.

KPMG contacts

Recover Canterbury Initiative

IT support assistance with data recovery

Wage subsidiaries

NZ Trade and Enterprise

Department of Labour

Business interruption insurance

Telecommunications

Inland Revenue

ACC

Banking

Work and Income NZ

Housing assistance

Counselling services

Please feel free to contact us at any time to discuss your issues.

Recover Canterbury

For information or advice call 03 366 5096 or 0800 505 096 or recovercanterbury.co.nz, a collaborative effort between NZTE, CECC, CDC and CCC and other Canterbury based entities.

IT support assistance with data recovery

KPMG's forensic IT specialists can assist with the recovery of data from your critical IT systems and user workstations or laptops, in order to help you get up and running more quickly.

Please contact us for assistance.

Wage subsidiaries

Is available for employers for up to 6 weeks from 22 February 2011 at a gross rate of \$500 per week per employee for full time employees (over 20 hours per week) or a \$300 per week per employee for part time employees (anyone working 20 hours or less).

Self employed people or business owners who draw a wage from their business can receive the subsidy to support their own wages.

How to apply

- Online at workandincome.govt.nz
- By phoning the government helpline on 0800 779 997 (this line is operating 24/7).
- At a Work and Income office if there is no access to internet or phone

What information is needed?

Employers need to provide their business IRD number, business bank account number, and the details of the staff requiring the subsidy (employee name and IRD numbers). This information will be confirmed by IRD before payment is made.

Employers need to contact Work and Income and their employees and make them aware of what is happening. Where employees have already applied for Earthquake Job Loss Cover before hearing from the employer, they will be transferred to the Earthquake Support Subsidy.

What if the business can open/operate but is experiencing a loss of trade?

Small businesses which can open but are experiencing a significant loss of trade can receive the subsidy for the initial six week period – this will be reviewed when decisions are made by government around continuing the subsidy.

Do employers have to pay GST, ACC levies, PAYE and Holiday Pay and other employment related expenses for employees if they get this subsidy?

Employers are required to pay ACC levies, PAYE, Holiday Pay, and all normal employment related expenses, but the Government has waived GST on the Earthquake Support Subsidy.

What if there is business interruption insurance but there are delays with payment?

Employers who have business interruption insurance should contact their insurance company in the first instance. If insurance payments will be delayed, employers can access the Earthquake Support Subsidy to cover the intervening period, but will be required to repay it when the insurance payment is received.

What about employers who haven't decided what to do with their business?

We would encourage employers to apply for the subsidy, to help them get through the intervening period while they make decisions about the future.

When will payment go through?

Employers will receive an email/text advising when the payment is made. If all information is provided and matches the IRD records then payment will be made quickly.

People will be advised of the progress of their application automatically.

How long will it be before the first payment is made?

The first payments will be made from Wednesday 2 March 2011. People will be notified when payment has been made.

NZTrade and Enterprise

recovercanterbury.co.nz – 0800 505 096

- If you are already a client of NZTE, contact your client manager directly for any assistance or support you require.
- If you are not a client of NZTE call their Business Services Team on 0800 555 888, the team will be able to discuss which of their services are most appropriate for your particular needs.
- Their website also contains much useful information, nzte.govt.nz

Department of Labour

dol.govt.nz – 0800 20 90 20

If you need assistance with finding staff or need advice on your obligations as an employer contact the Department of Labour.

Business interruption insurance

KPMG can provide economic loss analysis and calculations to support your business interruption claims. Please contact us when you are ready.

Telecommunications

All telecommunications firms are offering support and services to change your land lines, internet or mobile phones. There contact details are below:

Telecom

- Phone 120 for Residential or 125 for business customers

Vodafone

Vodafone.co.nz/redalert or 777

- Business customers 088 438 448, Consumer customers 0800 438 458
- Stores open include Hornby, Northlands, Westfield Mall (Riccarton)
- The Vodafone truck is at Home Base, 119 Marshland Road, Shirley with handsets, charges, free Wi-Fi and staff to assist you.

TelstraClear

Telstraclear.co.nz/go/earthquakesupport

- Residential customers 0508 24 24 11,
Business Customers 0508 24 24 12

2 Degrees

2degreesmobile.co.nz – 0800 022 022 or 200

Snap

snap.net.nz – 0800 276 232

Inland Revenue

ird.govt.nz – 0800 473 566

The IRD understand your position and recognise many businesses cannot meet your obligations. Their Christchurch office is closed until approximately 14 March. However, any calls are being directed to other offices. If you wish us to contact the Department on your behalf just call us.

- Income Tax returns
All KPMG clients in Christchurch that have not yet filed their 2010 income tax returns have been given an extension of time by the IRD.
- Other tax returns
Do not worry if you can't meet a filing date. When you can contact either KPMG or the IRD direct to advise when you may be able to file these.
- Tax payments
If you cannot make a payment at this time, do not worry. When you can contact either KPMG or the IRD direct to advise your position. Any provisional tax payments now due are likely to require estimating downwards. We can help you do this.
- Current tax audits
If you are currently being audited we understand these will be placed on hold.
- Working for Families Tax Credits – 0800 227 773 or workingforfamilies.govt.nz
These payments will continue but you or your staff may be entitled to an increase in payments, or now become entitled. Call us or the IRD for assistance.
- Accommodation supplement or
Childcare assistance – 0800 774 004

ACC

business@acc.co.nz – 0800 222 776

- All levy invoices that were due to be sent to self-employed people and businesses in the Christchurch region are now on-hold. This will be reviewed 22 March.
- All debt collection is on hold.
- ACC's Northwood Branch is open for claims and assistance.

Banking

All the major banks are offering support relief packages for clients, see their website or call their 0800 line for more details.

ASB

asb.co.nz – 0800 272 007

BNZ

bnz.co.nz – 0800 275 269

Westpac

Westpac.co.nz

- Banking - Personal customers 0800 400 600, business customers 0800 177 567
- Insurance – 088 738 641

ANZ

anz.co.nz – 0800 269 296

- Insurance - 0800 269 296
- If you have a General Insurance query, please contact the following companies directly:
Vero: 0800 269 252
Tower: 0800 100 660
- For Business Insurance, contact Crombie Lockwood on 0800 276 624
- Life Insurance customers with OnePath Insurance Services should call 0800 63 66 44

National

Nationalbank.co.nz

- For Personal and Private Banking customers, our Contact Centre is open and able to assist you as usual. Phone 0800 185 185.
- For Business customers 0800 16 88 88
- For Rural customers 0800 80 77 11
- For Commercial customers 0800 275 277

Insurance 0800 18 18 18

- If you have a General Insurance query, please contact the following companies directly:
Vero: 0800 626 925
Tower: 0800 325 532
- For Business Insurance, contact Crombie Lockwood on 0800 276 624
- Life Insurance customers with OnePath Insurance Services should call 0800 63 66 44

Kiwi Bank

- Home Loan customers 0800 222 224
- Business Banking customers 0800 601 601
- Everyday banking customers 0800 11 33 55

Work and Income NZ

Unemployment Benefit – Canterbury Earthquake:

workandincome.govt.nz – 0800 779 997

- The Unemployment Benefit for self employed people and employers, whose business has been affected by the earthquake.
- Employers will be considered for this support if they are:
 - working to rebuild their business, and
 - seeking other employment until the business is able to generate enough to support them.

Redundancy Support Services

workandincome.govt.nz/business/a-z-services/redundancy-support.html or call 0800 778 008

- If your business is downsizing, relocating or closing, then Work and Income can support you and your employees with an onsite visit, providing information about:
 - other jobs available in the area
 - information about income support entitlements.

Housing assistance

housinghelp.govt.nz – 0800 435 700

- Housing New Zealand can provide emergency housing help

Counselling services

0800 777 846 or Lifeline 0800 543 354

KPMG contacts

KPMG Staff are in Christchurch and happy to help. Contact any of the following staff:

Audit

Paul Kiesanowski, 021 2727 087 pmkiesanowski@kpmg.co.nz

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Roger Nuttall, 021 247 1118 rogernuttall@kpmg.co.nz

Business Advisory

Alex Skinner, 021 280 9013 askinner@kpmg.co.nz

Ian Morkel, 021 284 0618 imorkel@kpmg.co.nz

Cathy Davidson, 03 353 0091 cathydavidson@kpmg.co.nz

Tax

Olive Wallis, 021 535 791 omwallis@kpmg.co.nz

Anne Edgar, 021 535 789 aeedgar@kpmg.co.nz

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