

# Support following 14 November earthquakes

Support available to individuals and businesses while you manage the impact of the earthquakes

## 0800 Government Helpline

You can call the Government Helpline on **0800 779 997**, from **7am - 9pm**, seven days a week if you:

- would like assistance
- are struggling to support yourself, or your family
- would like more information about how we can help.

Even if you don't think you'd qualify, please call us because there are lots of ways we may be able to help, and we can point you in the right direction based on your situation.

We may be able to organise payments for you over the phone. You don't have to be on a benefit.

## Stress counselling and support

It's completely normal for you and your family to be emotionally and physically drained by the earthquakes. You're not alone in feeling this way, and you don't have to cope on your own. Friends and family members not affected by the event can help you cope with the added stress. Local qualified and experienced counsellors are also available free of charge.

Call the Earthquake Support Line on **0800 777 846**.

## Financial Support for individuals

### Civil Defence payments

Extra financial support has been made available for people in these districts: **Hurunui, Kaikoura and Marlborough (such as in Seddon and Ward)**.

Civil Defence payments can cover the following costs:

- payments if you're hosting evacuees (private homes, marae or community centres)
- accommodation costs if you've evacuated and are staying in tourist accommodation (motels, hotels or temporary rental accommodation)
- loss of livelihood (where you can't work and have lost your income because of the earthquake)
- food, clothing and bedding (immediate needs up to a maximum amount).
- You can call the Government Helpline **0800 779 997** to find out more about this.

### Help with living expenses

Help with living costs is available for people in any location. If you need something urgently, or get an unexpected bill, and can't afford to pay for it right now, we might be able to help you even if you're not on a benefit. It might be for things like medical costs, food, rent, power bills, repairs or replacing appliances. You may have to pay the money back depending on your situation.

### Other help

Work and Income also provides other help such as benefits and housing assistance for people in any location. Everyone's situation is different, so what you may qualify for depends on your situation.

Please call the Government Helpline on **0800 779 997** to find out more, or visit [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

# Financial support for businesses and sole traders

Work and Income can provide financial assistance to help you pay employees while you manage through the impact of the earthquakes.

## Earthquake Support Subsidy

The Earthquake Support Subsidy is a subsidy to help sole traders and small businesses impacted by the 14 November earthquakes. It aims to help you retain your staff and continue to pay them while you transition back to business-as-usual.

- It is paid for a maximum period of eight weeks and will be backdated from 14 November 2016.
- It is paid at a rate of \$500 gross per week for full-time employees, and \$300 per week for part-time employees.
- The employer is responsible for paying GST, ACC levies, PAYE and holiday pay, and any other employment related expenses in respect of the employee(s).
- Payment will be made by lump sum for a period of up to four weeks. After this, businesses must verify they still meet eligibility criteria, to receive a further payment for up to another four weeks.

## Who can get the Earthquake Support Subsidy?

To be eligible for the subsidy, the following conditions must be met.

- You can't operate or are operating at a reduced capacity because of the earthquakes.
- You have no other way to pay your employees, including insurance cover.
- You're located in the Kaikoura, Cheviot, Ward, Rotherham, Waiau, and Mount Lyford areas. (The subsidy may be available in other geographic areas if you can provide evidence of earthquake related impact.)
- You're a sole trader or small business, with fewer than 20 employees.

## It's easy to apply

Just call our Government Helpline on **0800 779 997** and we'll talk with you about your situation and let you know how to apply. You'll need to tell us:

- your business IR number
- your business bank account number
- details of the staff you want the subsidy for (employees' names, dates of birth, IR numbers and their normal hours of work).

***Payments are made directly to your business bank account.***

We'll pay you directly. You're responsible for continuing to pay your employees.

Please call the Government Helpline on **0800 779 997** to find out more, or visit **[www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)**

# Other support for business owners and sole traders

## Inland Revenue

We know that tax won't be front of mind for you right now. Please don't worry if you can't meet a particular filing or payment date. We're able to take a flexible and realistic approach in these circumstances.

Customers who've missed filing returns or making payments can ask us to grant relief from penalties. If you're struggling to deal with your tax or payments, please contact your tax agent or accountant or you can call Inland Revenue on **0800 473 566**.

## Regional Business Partners

Getting support to run your business in times of stress can be hard. The Government funds the Regional Business Partners network to provide information and advice to New Zealand businesses. The regional business partners work with Business Mentors New Zealand, who provide 12 months of confidential one-on-one advice for owners of small and medium-sized businesses who want to grow or need help to solve specific business challenges. The regional business partner in Canterbury is Canterbury Regional Business Partners Ltd. Call them on **03 353 0035**, or visit **[www.cdc.org.nz](http://www.cdc.org.nz)**

## Ministry of Primary Industries

As well as standard Government support, primary producers can contact their local Rural Support Trust, run by local, trained people who offer free and confidential help and advice. Call them on **0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)** or visit **[www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz)** to be put you in touch with the services you might need.