

Wednesday 8 September 2010

Earthquake Support Subsidy

The Government has announced a subsidy for small businesses to assist them to pay wages for those employees who were prevented from working as a result of the earthquake.

A payment is available for employers with fewer than 20 staff to assist them to pay their employees if they are unable to open for business or have reduced capacity following the earthquake. The payment will be made directly to the employer who will then pay the employee.

The wage subsidy will be paid:

- for up to 4 weeks (any additional funding will be subject to reapplication)
- at the gross rate of \$350 (inclusive of GST), per week per employee or pro-rata for part-time staff
- as a lump sum advance payment.

It will be available from Thursday 9 September 2010. Payments can be made retrospectively from Saturday 4 September 2010.

You will need to be:

- New Zealand owned
- Canterbury employer
- Employ fewer than 20 staff.

You can call the Government Helpline – 0800 779 997 for help with your application.

The application form is also available at Work and Income Service Centres.

You will need to complete the application form and return it to a Work and Income Service Centre.

You will need to provide:

- recent wage records for each employee
- a pre-printed bank deposit slip

For further information go to the Labour Department website, www.dol.govt.nz.