



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

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11 March 2014

IN CONFIDENCE

Sir John Hansen
Convenor
Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Review Panel
c/- Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority
Private Bag 4999
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Dear Sir John

Review of Canterbury Earthquake (Social Security Act) Amendment Order 2014

I attach the Canterbury Earthquake (Social Security Act) Amendment Order 2014 which provides that the amended definition of "premises", for the purposes of Accommodation Supplement, will remain in force for a further two years, until the end of 19 April 2016. In accordance with section 73 of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 (the Recovery Act), all draft Orders in Council must be reviewed by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Review Panel before they are recommended to the Governor General by the relevant Minister.

Accommodation Supplement is a form of targeted financial assistance available to people to help meet accommodation costs. In the case of homeowners, costs may include mortgage payments and local authority rates. It is available to both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

"Premises" is defined in the Social Security Act 1964 as "the place that a person occupies as a home". As a result of the Canterbury earthquakes, this definition was extended by Order in Council, to include premises that a person occupied as a home at the time of the earthquakes, but cannot currently occupy because of damage from those earthquakes. This change meant that people whose homes were not habitable, but who continue to need to meet payments in relation to them, can still receive financial assistance.

The Order in Council that provides for this extended definition of "premises" expires on 31 March 2014. However, the time it is taking for rebuilding and rehousing to occur in Christchurch has meant that a number of people are still not able to occupy premises damaged by the earthquakes, and still need to meet mortgage payments and local authority rates.

The Government, therefore, proposes that the amendment to the definition be continued for a further two years, until the end of 19 April 2016, which coincides with the expiry of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011. The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority was consulted on, and agreed with, this proposal.

If the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Review Panel has any feedback on the draft Order, this must be provided to me by 14 March 2014 (Alison.Cossar003@msd.govt.nz or 04 916 3093).

Yours sincerely



Alison Cossar
Team Manager
Income Support

**Canterbury Earthquake (Social
Security Act) Order (No 2) 2010
Amendment Order 2014**

Governor-General

Order in Council

At Wellington this day of 2014

Present:
in Council

Pursuant to section 71 of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011, His Excellency the Governor-General makes the following order, acting—

- (a) on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council;
and
- (b) on the recommendation of the relevant Minister made following the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Review Panel's review of a draft of the order.

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Canterbury Earthquake (Social Security
Act) Order (No 2) 2010 Amendment
Order 2014

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3 Revocation of this order 2

Order

- 1 Title**
This order is the Canterbury Earthquake (Social Security Act) Order (No 2) 2010 Amendment Order 2014.
- 2 Commencement**
This order comes into force on 1 April 2014.
- 3 Principal order**
This order amends the Canterbury Earthquake (Social Security Act) Order (No 2) 2010 (the **principal order**).
- 4 Revocation of this order**
This order is revoked on the close of 19 April 2016.
- 5 Clause 3 replaced (Expiry)**
Replace clause 3 with:
“3 Revocation of this order
This order is revoked on the close of 19 April 2016.”

Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the order, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This order, which comes into force on 1 April 2014 and is revoked on the close of 19 April 2016, defers the expiry of the Canterbury Earthquake (Social Security Act) Order (No 2) 2010 (the **principal order**) from 31 March 2014 until its revocation on the close of 19 April 2016.

Canterbury Earthquake (Social Security
Act) Order (No 2) 2010 Amendment
Order 2014

Explanatory note

The principal order authorises the payment of accommodation supplements to homeowners in specified areas of Canterbury who are otherwise eligible but—

- no longer live in their homes as a result of damage caused by the Canterbury earthquakes; or
- must vacate their homes for a period of time while repairs are being carried out.

This order is made under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 and its effect is temporary.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2012.

Date of notification in *Gazette*:

This order is administered by the Ministry of Social Development.
