

# Inland Revenue Question and Answers

**Please take care of your immediate concerns (family, home etc) first.**

## **Do you have a business that is affected by the earthquake?**

Contact us via our Online Services:

<http://www.ird.govt.nz/online-services/online-services-registration.html>

or phone 0800 473 566 and we will be able to remit any penalties, if you were affected by the quake.

## **How much extra time will affected businesses have to meet their tax obligations and what proof is required?**

Each case will be looked at individually, as we recognise the situation in Canterbury – we'll be sympathetic and reasonable.

## **What if my records were lost due to the earthquake?**

If your records or receipts were lost due to the earthquake, then try and recreate the records as best you can using bank statements, back up files or contacting major suppliers for copies of receipts, etc.

If you're late in filing your return or making payments as a result of the earthquake and we charge you penalties, please contact us on 0800 473 566 and we can look at removing these.

If you simply can't recreate the information needed, then contact us and let us know your circumstances.

## **What if I'm unable to access the building my records are stored in?**

We understand that you may not be able to access all the information you need to file your return on time. If you think this will mean that you won't be able to file your returns on time, contact us on 0800 473 566 to discuss your options.

## **Can I file my return electronically?**

Yes, you can file your GST return via the website, your IR3 through secure Online Services and your Employer Monthly Schedule, if you're registered for IR File;

<http://www.ird.govt.nz/online-services/online-services-registration.html>

## **How can I pay my tax on time?**

If you have internet access you can make payments online, at any branch of Westpac bank, or you can mail us a cheque to Inland Revenue, P O Box 3754, Christchurch.

## **What if I can't make payment on time or in full?**

There are a range of options we can consider. Inland Revenue will take a sympathetic and realistic approach with businesses that are unable to meet their tax obligations as a result of the earthquake. Just call us on 0800 473 566 or write to us and let us know your circumstances.

## **Preparing for the 1 October changes to GST?**

Businesses and organisations registered for GST need to start planning now for the rate increase to 15% on 1 October 2010. If you will have trouble meeting the time-frames, please contact us on 0800 473 566.

## **What if I'm made redundant as a result of the earthquake?**

The Redundancy Tax Credit has been repealed from 1 October 2010. This means the Redundancy Tax Credit can only be claimed on redundancy payments received prior to this date. Customers who receive redundancy payments before 1 October 2010 will have four years after the payment is received to submit a claim.