



23 February 2011

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHRISTCHURCH

We at ETITO are doing whatever we can to assist our staff and clients affected by the Christchurch earthquake.

Our thoughts are with all those and their families who have been affected. We appreciate that this is a very difficult time particularly for the families and colleagues of those who remain missing in the central city.

ETITO's Christchurch staff and their families are safe and unharmed. We are continuing to establish contact with our team of financial adviser authorisation assessors in Canterbury.

Our Christchurch office will remain closed for the foreseeable future and the phones are diverted to our Auckland office. We have a team in place to assist our South Island clients in the interim.

Tuesday's earthquake has had a particular affect on a number of Christchurch financial advisers preparing for examinations and assessments to become Authorised Financial Advisers under the new regime which comes into effect on 1 July this year. These include 24 advisers who were due to sit the Standard Set B examination in Christchurch today.

ETITO is making changes to accommodate advisers who have been affected by the earthquake. Some of these are outlined below.

Examinations

Advisers who were due to sit the Standard Set B examination today have been contacted to advise that it has been cancelled. ETITO will also review other planned examination sittings in Christchurch, ensuring that arrangements for all future sittings are considerate of the need for advisers to have sufficient time to deal with new and other priorities as a result of the quake. Advisers will not incur any additional fees as a result of the need to change bookings.

Assessments

We will contact advisers with Standard Set C assessments booked to discuss arrangements. We know that some advisers may have lost, or lost access to, portfolio or other information for the planned assessment. We will ensure future assessment plans consider these circumstances. We have not yet established contact with all of our Christchurch-based assessors. Efforts continue in this regard and we are considering options to provide back-up assessment in Christchurch drawing on assessors from other parts of the country.

Working with other agencies

ETITO is working closely with the Securities Commission and other agencies to ensure advisers affected by the earthquake are supported in their endeavours to achieve authorisation.

Contact information:

Financial advisers can contact ETITO at faahelp@etito.co.nz or the AFA helpdesk at helpdesk@etito.co.nz

All other queries can be directed to our Auckland office main number: [09] 525 2590 or email: info@etito.co.nz