



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$1.1 million Earthquake Recovery Fund Announced Today

Rātā Foundation today announced a \$1.1 million Earthquake Recovery Fund to provide support to the Hurunui, Kaikoura and Marlborough districts following the devastating 7.8 earthquake.

Chair of the Foundation, Roger Bridge says the focus of the Fund will be on supporting the recovery of affected communities.

"We know from experience the recovery period after a disaster of this magnitude can be long and difficult. It is essential for the long-term welfare of people in these regions that they get as much financial support as possible to rebuild lives and infrastructure," says Roger Bridge.

Kaikoura Mayor Winston Gray says his community will benefit greatly from any financial assistance.

"We know we've got a massive job ahead looking after our people and fixing our damaged town and this funding from the Rata Foundation gives us a very good start." Mr Gray says.

The Fund has been split into three:

- Initial response of \$50,000 donation to the Marlborough Mayoral Relief Fund, \$50,000 to Kaikoura Mayoral Relief Fund and \$50,000 to Hurunui Mayoral Relief Fund, total donation of \$150,000.
- Quick Response Fund – Allocation of \$250,000 to support community groups with immediate recovery needs (criteria – community organisations qualifying under normal funding criteria and having impact from the November earthquake). Grants to be a maximum of \$20,000 per community organisation.
- Long-Term Recovery Fund – Allocation of \$700,000 to support the community with long-term recovery needs. This will be distributed through a flexible process, criteria of which will be announced once further review and

consultation with community leaders, key agencies and community groups to understand the need and where gaps might exist has been done.

MP for the damaged regions Stuart Smith says each area has unique and different needs, but states the closure of SH1 has wide-ranging implications for many, particularly those in Kaikoura, Ward, Seddon and Cheviot who rely heavily on through-traffic and tourism for the health of their businesses and community.

“These places are small in population and are suffering not only from issues around isolation, but also broken infrastructure. One way people can respond easily is to give to the respective Mayoral Relief Funds.”

Mr Bridge agrees that given the scale and geographical spread of the earthquake the needs will differ from region to region.

“We have already started talking to key support agencies and community groups to understand where we can provide support. As funders we need to let our communities define their needs, listen and be ready to respond accordingly,” he says.

Marlborough Mayor John Leggett reports many people in the region’s rural community are quietly getting on with making essential repairs; re-instating stock water and infrastructure on farms. This all comes at a financial and psychological cost. “I’m also very conscious of looking after the children of our communities - making sure we prioritise projects that will enable some return of security and a sense of normality to them.”

Winton Dalley, Mayor of Hurunui, says the trauma of the earthquakes on his community, especially on young people, is becoming more evident by the day. “The loss of social infrastructure such as swimming pools and local community centres adds to this.”

“We have been blown away by the immediate and unbelievably generous response from across the country, offering much-needed financial assistance to our community but the need is on-going,” says Mr Dalley.

Mr Bridge says Rata Foundation’s funds can leverage projects along with other funders and the organisation will be working over the coming months to understand where key agencies are focussing their resources and funds and complement where possible.

The establishment of the Fund will not impact on Rātā Foundation’s usual activities. An annual budget of \$20 million will be distributed in this financial year.

“Groups in affected regions or who are experiencing an overload of services in our funding regions will still be able to apply for grants under our normal funding programme, alongside the Earthquake Recovery Fund,” says Mr Bridge.

“We as a community and a country all want to help the people who are now living through acute hardship. Our message is simple – if you want to do something to help, donate to any one of the three Mayoral Relief funds or frontline organisations like Red Cross. The smallest amount can make a huge difference,” says Mr Bridge.

WANT TO HELP? YOU CAN DONATE TO:

Hurunui Mayoral EQ Relief Fund.

Donations can be made at any service centre/library in the Hurunui District or can be e-deposited into the bank account 03-0802-0946666-00. If you are making an electronic donation please use the reference EQ FUND.

Kaikoura Mayoral EQ Relief Fund.

If you wish to make a donation to the Kaikoura District Council and community's recovery from the earthquakes, please use the bank account below:

02-0856-0011698-083

If you would prefer to make a donation to the Kaikoura Earthquakes Mayoral Relief Fund, which will be used to assist residents known to be most affected by the earthquakes (with terms and criteria yet to be defined), please use the bank account below:

02-0856-0011698-005

Marlborough Mayoral EQ Relief Fund.

The bank account for the Fund is: 02 0600 0202861 00 and the reference to record is mayor EQ.

Monetary donations may also be handed in at the offices of the Marlborough District Council in Blenheim or Picton.

Red Cross Earthquake Appeal:

Donations can be made directly via the Red Cross website:

<https://www.redcross.org.nz/donate/november-2016-earthquake-appeal/>

Details around Rata Foundation's 2016 Earthquake Recovery Fund will be available on their website on today – www.ratafoundation.org.nz.

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