



## Media Release

For Release: 22 February 2011

### **ANZ New Zealand donates \$1 million in relief and branches to accept donations for earthquake assistance**

ANZ New Zealand today announced a new donation of \$1 million to support long-term relief and recovery efforts, and a package of assistance for the people of Christchurch and its surrounding regions impacted by today's 6.3 magnitude earthquake.

"Our thoughts are with the people affected by today's earthquake, our staff in the regions and their families who have been affected by today's earthquake," said ANZ New Zealand Chief Executive Officer David Hisco.

"It is terrible that they have had to go through another natural disaster and of such devastating scale just as Christchurch was attempting to rebuild and move on from the September earthquake.

"Today's reports of loss of life and injury from this disaster are simply overwhelming. Our sympathies are with all of those who have been affected.

"ANZ New Zealand will donate \$1 million towards the relief efforts to help the community rebuild. Our ANZ and National Bank branches have opened new appeal accounts to take public donations on behalf of the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal. We have over 9000 staff and we will also match staff donations made to these accounts."

People can make a donation to the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal either at an ANZ Branch (account number: 01-1839-0188939-00) or at The National bank (account number: 06-0869-0548507-00).

"Anyone can go into one of our ANZ or National Bank branches and make a donation to help. We are keen to offer our support and assistance at this terrible time," said Mr Hisco.

All ANZ and National Bank branches in the affected areas are currently closed. Details of branches that are operational will be listed on the ANZ and National Bank websites. The site will be updated regularly.

ANZ and The National Bank will also reactivate its Natural Assistance Disaster Package for its customers which includes:

- suspend repayments on all loans, including credit cards, for up to three months (with interest capitalised)
- waive fees associated with restructuring finances considered necessary due to earthquake impacts
- waive early withdrawal costs for term deposits
- consider temporary adjustments to customer lending limits including credit cards to assist them to cope financially with unexpected costs arising from the earthquake

Application of the above measures will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Mr Hisco said staff impacted by the earthquake would be provided with paid leave to manage their personal circumstances or to support community recovery efforts. Emergency cash

grants of NZ\$1,000 will be given to staff to help with unexpected costs, and counselling services will be available for staff and family members.

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