

6th September 2021

The Honourable Grant Robertson

Parliament House

Private Bag 18888

Parliament Buildings

Wellington 6160

Dear Honourable Grant Robertson,

Extension of the Resurgence Support Payment for South Canterbury businesses

As New Zealand grapples with the impact of Covid-19 we call upon you to extend the Resurgence Support Payment to a weekly payment for our businesses. We know we are joining the call from over 40,000 businesses across New Zealand and see this as a vital way in which the government can support our businesses to stay afloat during these difficult times.

At this early stage we have over 300 signatures (attached) and letters of full support and backing of our three Mayors from the Timaru, Waimate and Mackenzie District's (attached) who know and understand this is a vital lifeline to our small to medium sized businesses who literally employ thousands of people.

The wage subsidy of course is vital, but this is insufficient to keep the businesses alive and operating as they still have huge ongoing costs including rent and rates, power, insurance, stock costs etc and many are topping up the wage subsidy from either no income or drastically reduced income. Many of these businesses are still suffering from the cumulative impacts of the last Lockdown and Alert Level changes, they have bank loans and debt.

While Auckland is in Lockdown or Alert L3 it is estimated that the South Island loses \$1million per day! Alert levels have different impacts on different businesses however if they can demonstrate a reduction of 30% in revenue they need your support with this additional payment, they are our future.

Our owner operator small and medium sized businesses are the lifeblood of our communities. There are approximately 530,000 small businesses alone in New Zealand (MBIE data), they account for 28% of employment and contribute over a quarter of NZ's GDP.

We call on you to extend this existing support mechanism.

Regards



Wendy Smith
Chief Executive
South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce