

Tax relief – extreme events

We know that tax won't be the first thing on your mind after an extreme* event. However, we can help you if you contact us with any concerns or questions you have about tax relief.

If an extreme event affects your ability to make your tax payments and/or affects your income, tax relief and/or income assistance may be available depending on your personal circumstances and the particular event.

Provisional tax estimates/re-estimates

You may be able to make an estimate or re-estimate of your provisional tax if your income has changed due to the extreme event. We can arrange early refunds if provisional tax has been overpaid.

Late filing and late payment penalties

If you've been unable to file returns on time it's important to contact us and discuss your options. We can't grant extensions for GST and PAYE returns, but any penalties for late filing may be remitted. If you receive a letter advising your return is overdue it's important you don't ignore the letter but contact your tax agent or Inland Revenue.

Under some circumstances penalties for late payments caused by the effects of the extreme event may also be remitted.

Outstanding tax

We'll consider instalments for outstanding tax in some circumstances. You can apply for a write-off due to serious hardship when you know you won't be able to pay the full amount.

Note: If we grant relief from payment due to hardship and you have losses to carry forward, these losses will be reduced in proportion to the amount written off.

Certificate of exemption

If you're currently involved in contract work where schedular payments are to be deducted (eg, shearing or other agricultural contract work), you may be entitled to a certificate of exemption.

Special tax codes

You may be entitled to a special tax code if you're receiving a salary or wage and have a loss to carry forward.

Income equalisation scheme

People with money deposited in this scheme who:

- carry on a farming or agricultural business on land in New Zealand, or
- carry on a fishing business, or
- derive income from forestry

may be able to make an early withdrawal, or deposit funds in the scheme later than the usually allowed date.

Find out more about special provisions at www.ird.govt.nz (keywords: income equalisation).

Working for Families Tax Credits

Working for Families Tax Credits entitlements are based on a person's yearly family income. Your entitlement may change if your family income has been affected by the extreme event. You can update your estimated family income through myIR Secure Online Services at www.ird.govt.nz

Working for Families Tax Credits can be claimed weekly, fortnightly or at the end of the year. It's important if you have a tax agent to discuss your options with them first.

Child support

If you have concerns or question about your continuing entitlements, or are having trouble making your payments by the due dates, please call us on 0800 221 221.

Need more help?

We suggest you contact your tax advisor first. If you wish to speak to us please call 0800 473 566. For the latest information about tax relief for your situation, go to www.ird.govt.nz and check "Updates" on the homepage.

* "Extreme" means as a result of a national or local civil defence emergency and/or a rare occurrence where an event has significant implications to the operating of your business. Examples include snow storms, floods, drought, earthquake or disease affecting livestock or crops.