

# NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS 2011 EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION



NEW ZEALAND  
**RED CROSS**

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Red Cross to give second round of Winter Assistance

The New Zealand Red Cross 2011 Earthquake Commission today approved more help with electricity bills for all households that received its 2012 Winter Assistance Grant.

Around 6000 households will receive a second payment of \$400 which will be paid directly to their power company.

The previous grant was \$100 for each of the four months of June, July, August and September.

Commission head Sir John Hansen says the second payment is in recognition of the fact many people are still struggling with heating bills, due to living in earthquake-damaged houses.

“We are responding to a need our Outreach volunteers are seeing out in the community. There is a great need among the elderly in particular, some of whom are avoiding using heating because of the cost.

“People have the option of using the payment now or holding it in credit for next winter.”

The Winter Assistance Grant closed on October 1. It was available to all households with earthquake damage or those who had to move to colder, damper, harder to heat accommodation.

The Commission has also approved more help for people with storage bills.

It will now pay a grant of up to \$1000 towards earthquake-incurred storage bills upon presentation of receipts. Previously the storage grant was up to \$500.

Of the \$125 million donated to the New Zealand Red Cross earthquake appeals, \$16 million remains unallocated. Half this money was donated by Japanese Red Cross a few months ago.

The Commission is actively working with Red Cross staff to identify further grants to help the most vulnerable, in particular the young and the elderly.

So far more than \$74 million in grants has been distributed to 88,000 individuals and families.

Another \$20 million is ring-fenced for open grants, including those approved today.



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\$5 million has been spent on recovery programmes including Winter Warmer Packs, the torch radio programme, disaster preparedness and bereaved family support, and another \$10 million is left for upcoming recovery programmes over the next 3 years.

To apply for a grant go to [www.redcross.org.nz](http://www.redcross.org.nz) and click on grants.

**All media enquiries to Corinne Ambler, New Zealand Red Cross Communications  
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