



## The Canterbury Earthquake in February 2011 – Should the Government lead the recovery?

There has been a good deal of discussion about who should lead the recovery process in Christchurch. The government has appointed an authority, The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA), which includes local community representation, to lead the recovery and rebuilding process. The Authority will have quite sweeping powers designed to ensure that the recovery and rebuilding process in Christchurch is not tied down by red tape.

Research New Zealand decided to find out whether New Zealanders were in favour of the government leading the recovery process. We therefore decided to ask this question in the latest Research New Zealand monthly poll.

It should be noted that because of the earthquake, and the dislocation it has caused, we did not interview in Christchurch. The poll therefore represents the thinking of New Zealanders who live outside the region most affected by the earthquake.

### Key findings:

- ◆ There is **strong support** for the government leading the recovery and rebuilding process in Christchurch. Sixty-one percent of respondents were in favour with 29 percent not in favour.
- ◆ However, the **support is least** in the South Island at 54 percent in favour and 41 percent not in favour.

### Detailed findings:

Almost two-thirds of respondents were in favour of the government leading the process, while 29 percent were not in favour. Nine percent did not give a response.

Those in the age group 15–34 years, at 71 percent, were particularly in favour of the government leading the recovery process, while just over a third, 35 percent, in the 35–54 year age group were **not** in favour of this option. Interestingly, those living in the South Island, at 54 percent, were least in favour.

There were no significant differences by ethnic group or by income.



*The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone on 21—30 March 2011. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/- 4.7 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.*

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**Table 1: Opinion with regard to whether the Government should lead the recovery**

*Q12. Are you in favour or not in favour of the government leading the recovery process?*

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	250	250
	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	61	63	59
No, not in favour	29	28	30
Don't know/no response	9	8	10
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 2: Opinion with regard to whether the Government should lead the recovery**

*Q12. Are you in favour or not in favour of the government leading the recovery process?*

	Total	15-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	500	113	165	222
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	61	71	57	55
No, not in favour	29	21	35	33
Don't know/no response	9	9	8	11
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 3: Opinion with regard to whether the Government should lead the recovery**

*Q12. Are you in favour or not in favour of the government leading the recovery process?*

	Total	NZ European/ Pakeha	Maori/Pacific	Other
Base =	500	372	52	76
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	61	60	64	65
No, not in favour	29	31	30	23
Don't know/no response	9	9	5	12
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 4: Opinion with regard to whether the Government should lead the recovery**

*Q12. Are you in favour or not in favour of the government leading the recovery process?*

	Total	Upper North Island	Lower/ Central North Island	South Island
Base =	500	266	148	86
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	61	63	62	54
No, not in favour	29	28	26	41
Don't know/no response	9	9	12	5
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



**Table 5: Opinion with regard to whether the Government should lead the recovery**

*Q12. Are you in favour or not in favour of the government leading the recovery process?*

	Total	Under \$40,000	At least \$40,000 but less than \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	Don't know/refused
Base =	500	206	140	138	16**
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	61	60	61	65	38
No, not in favour	29	30	31	27	37
Don't know/no response	9	10	8	8	25
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\*\*Caution: low base number of respondents - results are indicative only.

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