

19 March 2020

Dear Prime Minister

The announcement by Finance Minister Grant Robertson and yourself of \$12.1 billion of support for New Zealanders to assist in minimising the economic impact of Covid19 has been welcomed throughout the country. We at the Fundraising Institute of New Zealand (FINZ) commend your response to the unprecedented challenges the nation is facing.

We are very mindful that the devil is in the detail and we have yet to see the detail, let alone analyse and understand it. We would, nonetheless, welcome your reassurance that the support being extended to businesses and employees includes the charitable and non-profit sector. This is a sector which employs in excess of 150,000 New Zealanders in full-time and part-time roles and generates in the region of \$20 billion in income, the majority of which is directly spent on the public good.

As the Fundraising Institute of New Zealand, we are very conscious of the great generosity of New Zealanders. Our members will be redoubling their efforts to encourage philanthropic contributions throughout this crisis. In a time of sustained economic challenge, though, this may not be enough to meet the demands that will be placed on our member organisations, which includes their overhead and employee costs. This is why we are writing to you to ensure that we have access to the announced cash flow and wage subsidy support as Minister Robertson outlined would be available for businesses.

Many charities and non-profits will be closely involved in providing comfort and succour to those most affected by Covid19 and its social and economic impacts. These organisations and their employees, and the many volunteers who are also often at the frontline of services will need the same economic security as businesses. We sincerely hope that in the drafting of the instruments that will enable the execution of your announcement it will be very clear that the supports are offered on the same basis to charities and non-profits.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Berriman  
Executive Director