

Managing the Effect of a Disaster on Official Statistics

Gary Dunnet*

Statistics New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand

gary.dunnet@stats.govt.nz

Richard Penny

Statistics New Zealand, Christchurch, New Zealand

The recent series of earthquakes in Canterbury, New Zealand has been a major test of Statistics New Zealand's ability to produce timely and good quality official statistics. The earthquake affected respondents and Statistics NZ staff in Christchurch as well as the challenge of monitoring and adapting to a rapidly changing social and economic environment in Canterbury. Maintaining the output of statistics was a challenge that provides insights into what is important in producing statistical outputs to a suitable quality standard. Some of these insights will be of interest to those producing and using survey outputs that may be affected by natural and human disasters.

Keywords: Natural disasters, statistical quality, official statistics