

382 COLOMBO STREET

CHERYL ARMOUR of Christchurch, Shop Assistant, states:

I am employed by Spotlight as a Shop Assistant. Prior to that I worked for nearly seven years as a shop assistant at the Tasty Tucker Bakery, 380A Colombo Street, Sydenham.

In late August 2010 I went to the UK for a holiday and returned in early October 2010. Therefore I was not present in Christchurch when the 4 September 2010 earthquake occurred.

When I returned in October I noticed a lot of cracks on the building next door, to the north of Tasty Tucker – 382 Colombo St. These cracks had not been there prior to my trip to the UK.

There were cracks in the façade facing Colombo St. There were also cracks at the back of the building. We use to park our motor vehicles at the back of the ANZ building (which was at 380 Colombo St, next to and within, the same building as Tasty Tucker). Coming from the car park one could see the back of 382 Colombo St and, as well, the wall on the south of 382 Colombo St (ie: the wall next to and above the Tasty Tucker Bakery roof).

In October 2010 I noticed there was a slight lean in that wall towards the south.

I noticed at least 3 or 4, but probably more, cracks in that wall. They were zigzag cracks following the mortar lines. They were up to 1.5 metres in length and were wide enough to see that there was no mortar.

I knew that 382 Colombo St had been damaged by the earthquake because there was barricading in front of the building and I am pretty sure that it had a yellow sticker. However I did not know the extent of the damage.

There was often discussion in the Tasty Tucker Bakery between ourselves or with customers over the state of 382 Colombo St and the fact that we thought it should be demolished.

In the February earthquake I was working at the Tasty Tucker Bakery. I had just served Mrs Fletcher (the woman who was killed in the earthquake) and was walking back behind the counter when the earthquake struck. Mrs Fletcher was struck by a beam that came down from the roof. I think that she would have been killed instantly. There were bricks everywhere, falling in from the ceiling.

Another customer Bev Edwards was pinned by a beam. I stayed with her but was also trying to ascertain how others were in the shop. She was rendered a paraplegic as a result of the injuries she received that day. There was a couple who were sitting in the café with Mrs Fletcher. They received some injuries but survived.

Cheryl Armour
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CHERYL ARMOUR

10/12/2011
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DATE
