

**617-625 Colombo Street**

**Hearing: Tuesday 13 December 2011, 2.15pm**

**Summary**

617-625 Colombo St was a series of two-storied unreinforced masonry buildings on the north-west corner of Tuam and Colombo Sts. They appear to have been constructed as a single building which was connected to the buildings to the north at 627 and 629 Colombo St, sharing a party wall.

It appears that the building had previously been a heritage building.

Following the September earthquake all of the tenancies in the building were green placarded.

On 7 September 2010 Level 2 Rapid Assessments were completed by Beca, on behalf of the owners, and the green placards maintained.

The owners of the building commissioned Beca to complete an independent assessment of the building. The building was re-inspected on 10 and 15 September 2010 and a report supplied to the owner on 10 December 2010.

That report identified that the building was earthquake prone (11% of new building standard) but concluded that the building did not pose an immediate risk to the occupants. Various repairs and further investigations were recommended.

It would appear that no repair work was carried out on the building prior to the 22 February 2011 earthquake.

Following the February earthquake the building at 625 Colombo St (and the attached buildings to the north of that building) suffered collapses of their front facades.

Jennifer Donaldson was a pedestrian on Colombo St at the time of the earthquake. Her body was found by Police under rubble outside 625 Colombo St.

### **Proposed Witnesses**

1. Peter Smith, Spencer Holmes Ltd, structural engineer.
2. Christchurch City Council
3. David Ehlers, representative of building owners
4. Mark Humphery (or Jonathan Barnett), Beca, structural engineer
5. Police information showing location of Mrs Donaldson's body

### **Likely Issues**

1. Application of the Council's earthquake-prone policy to the building.
2. Structural assessment of building after the 4 September 2010 earthquake.