

MEDIA RELEASE

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A small boost to manufacturing in Canterbury

The manufacturing sector in Canterbury will have an opportunity to access additional workforce with the announcement of a border exception class for advanced manufacturing specialists this morning.

“The announcement by Minister Nash is long overdue, the manufacturing sector is vital to our economy – it employs 10.7% of the workforce and contributes \$4 billion per year to Canterbury’s gross domestic product,” says Leeann Watson, Chief Executive of the Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce.

“Workforce supply issues have been wreaking havoc across the business community and we’re pleased that this announcement may relieve some of the immediate pressure before the staged reopening of the border kicks into play.

“It’s important to be note that there are over 20,000 manufacturing enterprises in New Zealand employing a quarter of a million people, so there is still a long way to go in addressing the severely constrained labour market that manufacturers are facing.”

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For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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The Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) is a not-for-profit membership-based service organisation that has been the home and voice of business in the Canterbury region since 1859. Comprised of over 2,900 member organisations that represent over 70,000 employees, The Chamber’s purpose is to empower people in business by providing advisory and consultancy support in employment relations, human resources, health and safety, international trade, manufacturing, migrant support, research and development grants, and training and development in many areas. www.thechamber.co.nz