

Ready to join large crew of embalmers

EVANS Funeral Services Ltd have one of their embalmers on standby to help assist after the Christchurch earthquake.

Nick Evans has his bags packed and is just waiting for the call to go.

“At this stage they have made up two teams from around the country and they are going to assemble us down in Christchurch when required.

“They had estimated we were going to be there yesterday, however things are progressing slowly so they don't need us all there at the moment.”

Mr Evans said progress was slow because of the carefulness of the coroner releasing the bodies.

His job, once he arrives, will be to embalm bodies for repatriation back overseas or Christchurch people who

lost their lives.

Mr Evans has signed a confidentiality agreement already about the personal details of the people whose bodies he will be embalming, which is part and parcel of his job with Evans Funeral Services as well.

The team of embalmers from around the country will be housed at Lincoln University and will work at either Burnham Military Camp or in the city's mortuaries, depending on how damaged the bodies are.

“Initially they were looking at us going down for a week at a time but they are talking like they might not get some of the bodies back to the families for a month. If that is the case, there's a lot of work to be done.”