INTRODUCTION
After the devastating Christchurch earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 there was great potential for enhancing understanding, but constraints from the disrupted environment and funding limited opportunity. The RHISE group was established to facilitate collaborative, high-quality, disaster research.

RHISE – WHAT IT IS
• RHISE is a large, inclusive group of more than 200 researchers who have access to the opportunities and activities made available via the RHISE management team, a small group of researchers and health professionals.
• The RHISE Database is a comprehensive repository of health-related information concerning those injured in the New Zealand earthquakes, from unique New Zealand national and local databases.

RHISE – THE WORK IT DOES
• The RHISE management team facilitates the activities of RHISE, including:
  • Hosting meetings, symposia and conferences
  • Interacting with researchers locally, nationally and internationally
  • Maintaining a shared portal for members, which supports communication, collaboration and sharing of resources. Potential new members are welcome to contact Alieke.dierckx@cdhb.health.nz
  • Managing the RHISE Database
  • Outcomes to date include collaborations with national and international researchers, and a number of peer reviewed publications that have informed local guidelines that reduce risk of physical and psychological injury during and following earthquakes
  • The RHISE management team are hosting a major international conference; People in Disasters, in Christchurch, to coincide with the 5th anniversary of the devastating Christchurch earthquake. Visit peopleindisasters.org.nz

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
Born out of the Christchurch earthquakes, RHISE offers both a comprehensive earthquake casualty database for international researchers to study, and a network of researchers and practitioners based on a simple model of collaborative principles and structure. This network has enabled low-cost research promulgation and could be duplicated by many other developed and developing countries which have suffered from disasters. RHISE fulfils most aspects of Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework (Understanding Disaster Risk). Specifically, future publications will increase understanding of who is vulnerable and how to protect them when an earthquake strikes, of health hazard characteristics, of health risks, and of direct and indirect causes of injury and illness in the response and recovery phases of a disaster. These outcomes will have the potential to inform international guidelines that reduce risk and vulnerability of people during and following earthquakes. With improved resourcing, RHISE can make a valuable contribution at a regional and global level.