

Media release: Tuesday 18:2007



The Chamber of Commerce says Southland Anniversary Day is March 25th

“At this time of year we are plagued by businesses and others to stipulate which day in the following year is Southland Anniversary Day.” Says Richard Hay C.E.O Chamber Southland.

“Some calendars have been suggesting that Invercargill’s Anniversary day January 17 is also Southlands’ Anniversary day while other calendars give the 14th or even other dates.”

“We stand behind March 25th as the day that Southland Businesses recognise Southland Anniversary Day, and from this should calculate their wage payments and staffing schedules.”

The holidays act calls for the Anniversary of Southland to be a public holiday – That is the anniversary of the day in which the geographic area of Southland first became a province, or the day locally observed.

March 25th 1861 was the day in which the province of Southland was proclaimed and broke away from the Otago/Southland province establishing its independence 1 April 1861.

On July 30 2007 The Chamber of Commerce closed a public survey inviting submissions on what day Southland business are recognising or believe should recognise as the day to observe.

The result was 54% in favor of March 25 with 14% in favor of combining with Invercargill on January 17 the 32% balance was spread.

Mr Hay said that the Chamber of Commerce constantly fields inquiries over which day is to be recognised and after careful research, consultation and consideration state that March 25 is recognised as Southland Anniversary day.

This day does not have to be a day of business closure, but if staff work this day they are to be paid at least time and a half and take a paid day off at some other time.

We suggest that for the purpose of observing a day as the public holiday to be taken, Employers may consider using the Monday (Mondayise) the closest weekend to March 25. This is a common practice with some currently using the Easter period for the purpose, capitalising on the Tuesday as it is close to March 25.

“A recent court discussion, Nov 14:2007 (*AirNZ vs NZ Airline Pilots Assoc*) has given a interpretation on the moving of public holidays so we suggest you may like to contact your HR, legal adviser or employer organisation before deviating from March 25 .” Mr. Hay said

Further information is available contact:

<http://www.commercesouth.com/bfit/infozone/AnniversayDay>

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