Big Chill: â€˜One in 50 year eventâ€™: Businesses unprepared for workplace disruptions

Many small and medium businesses are unprepared for unexpected events that may prevent employees accessing the office

Auckland, New Zealand, 15thAugust 2011 With the cities and streetsof New Zealand at a standstill today following the once in a fifty year snowstorm that has affected the country, many small and medium businesses will beassessing their business contingency plans as they calculate the loss ofproductivity and revenue as staff struggled to make it into the office on time,or at all.The disruption to workflow thathas resulted from the snow storm, has thrown the spotlight on the need forsmall and medium businesses to be better prepared for unexpected events thatmay prevent employees accessing the office.

A poll of 400 small andmedium businesses and enterprises by the remote access provider LogMeIn, foundthat 68 per cent of small businesses are unprepared for events that couldprevent employees access to the office, compared to just 32 per cent ofenterprises.

Many small and medium businessesare concerned about the impact that disruptive events such as unpredictableweather, road closures, tremors, floods and public transport strikes can haveon employee absenteeism andtheir business productivity, said AndyFarquharson, Regional Director of LogMeIn. But having a plan in place can makea big difference.

Farquharson continued, Employees should be encouraged to work from home whenthese events arise, and be given the tools that enable them to stay productivewhen out of the office from communications to remote computer access. Thiscan not only minimise the impact of unforeseen disruptions, but it can actuallyallow companies to be more flexible in their approach to workplaceproductivity.

Small and medium businessesinterested in learning about how they can better prepare for disruptions thatprevent employees from coming to work including fast, easy remote access thatcan be set up in minutes without IT expertise can visit LogMeInsonline business continuity resource.

Additionally, millions of users have downloaded LogMeIn Free for easyremote access to their digital lives. LogMeIn products are available for a freetrial from the LogMeIn website at https://secure.logmein.com/nz.