



OZ MINISTER PLEAS FOR IRISH WORKERS

By NEIL FETHERSTON

TENS OF thousands of Irish workers are urgently needed in Australia and New Zealand, according to an Australian regional government minister.

The Northern Territory Minister for Business and Employment, Rob Knight, was speaking at the Working Abroad Expo in Dublin yesterday.

Around 5,000 people seeking information on emigrat-

ing to Australia, Canada and New Zealand are expected to attend the event over the weekend.

Mr Knight said unemployment in the Northern Territory was at around four per cent and skilled workers for the con-

struction, mining and services industry were urgently needed.

Thousands more construction workers were needed to rebuild the devastated New Zealand city of Christchurch which was badly damaged in an earthquake earlier this year.

As many as 3,000 skilled tradespeople could find jobs helping to rebuild the city as the country is set to spend €12 billion on a reconstruction effort.

Almost 200 people were killed by a 6.3 magnitude quake in February.