

2017 media releases

[Gold Coast workers back-paid \\$50,000 \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170823-gold-coast-recoveries\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170823-gold-coast-recoveries)

23 Aug 2017

Three workers in Queensland's Gold Coast region have been back-paid more than \$50,000 in owed wages and entitlements after seeking assistance from the Fair Work Ombudsman.

[Meatball and Wine Bar faces court for allegedly underpaying 26 workers, including visa holders \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170822-the-meatball-and-wine-bar-litigation\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170822-the-meatball-and-wine-bar-litigation)

22 Aug 2017

A Melbourne restaurateur will face court after his company allegedly underpaid 26 workers including visa holders across three of his restaurants, despite having received professional advice on its wage obligations.

[Farming waste company promises compliance step-up after underpaying workers nearly \\$94,000 \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170818-downes-rice-hulls-eu-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170818-downes-rice-hulls-eu-mr)

18 Aug 2017

A farming waste company in regional NSW that underpaid 16 truck drivers nearly \$94,000 is back-paying the workers and overhauling its workplace practices, following intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

[Workplace audits indicate room for improvement for small businesses in the Kimberley \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170817-broome-audits-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170817-broome-audits-mr)

17 Aug 2017

Spot checks of several small businesses in Broome in Western Australia's Kimberley region have recovered \$8643 in owed wages for local workers.

[Pizza Hut franchisee underpaid staff almost \\$20,000 \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170811-ambeshwar-pizza-hut-newcastle-eu\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170811-ambeshwar-pizza-hut-newcastle-eu)

11 Aug 2017

The franchisee of a Pizza Hut outlet at Newcastle, in NSW, underpaid 24 employees a total of almost \$20,000, an investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman has found.

[New guides to help apprentices get off to a good start \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170809-apprentice-guides\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170809-apprentice-guides)

launch-mr)

9 Aug 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched two new guides to assist apprentices and their employers to understand their rights and obligations in the workplace.

Compliance checks for 200 businesses in South Australia's South East region (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170808-sa-south-east-regional-campaign)

8 Aug 2017

At least 200 businesses in and around Mount Gambier, Renmark and Murray Bridge are being audited as part of the Fair Work Ombudsman's latest education and compliance campaign.

Court action after young journalists allegedly underpaid more than \$300,000 (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170804-touchpoint-media-litigation)

4 Aug 2017

A company that operates news websites covering regional Queensland is facing the Federal Circuit Court for allegedly underpaying 23 young journalists more than \$300,000 over a period of less than 18 months.

Record penalty of \$660,000 for fruit market operator after refugee goes without pay for weeks (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/2017-08-02-mhoney-penalty-release)

2 Aug 2017

Record penalties of more than \$660,000 have been awarded against the former owner of a Melbourne fruit market and his company which deliberately ignored warnings about required pay rates and did not pay a refugee worker any wages for weeks.

Sushi operator allegedly underpaid vulnerable workers in regional NSW (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/august-2017/20170801-tokyo-sushi-litigations)

1 Aug 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced legal action against the operators of three 'Tokyo Sushi' outlets in NSW for allegedly underpaying workers more than \$70,000.

Migrant workers can now anonymously report workplace issues in their own language (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170731-migrant-worker-anon-report-tool)

31 Jul 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman is making it easier for migrant workers to report workplace concerns to the agency by launching its popular Anonymous Report function in 16 languages other than English.

Labour-hire operator penalised for flouting laws relating to overseas workers on Queensland farms (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-

2017/20170726-hta-farmings-penalty)

26 Jul 2017

A Queensland labour-hire company and its manager have been penalised a total of more than \$84,000 after flouting record-keeping and pay slip laws relating to vulnerable foreign workers, despite having previously been cautioned by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

More than \$100,000 in unpaid wages and entitlements recovered for Perth workers (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170726-perth-metro-mr)

26 Jul 2017

Intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman to assist employees and employers to resolve workplace disputes has resulted in more than \$100,000 back-pay for 41 workers across Perth.

Deliberate and systemic underpayments lead to penalties against a former 7-Eleven operator (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170725-js-top-penalty)

25 Jul 2017

A former Brisbane 7-Eleven operator has been hit with \$168,000 in penalties for short-changing workers and falsifying records to conceal the underpayments.

Not for profit back-pays \$370,000 to workers after disability classification mistake (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170721-challenge-eu-release)

21 Jul 2017

A not-for-profit business in northern NSW inadvertently underpaid 18 employees a total of more than \$370,000 after incorrectly classifying each of them as an 'employee with a disability', an audit by the Fair Work Ombudsman has found.

Melbourne travel agency lands in court for alleged cashback schemes, underpayments and false records (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170720-abella-travel-litigation)

20 Jul 2017

A Melbourne travel agency and one of its directors are facing court for allegedly requiring an overseas worker to pay back more than \$20,000 of her wages and for proposing to enter into a similar cashback scheme with a second worker.

Joint operation uncovers alleged exploitation of overseas workers at Melbourne restaurants (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170717-ye-shao-litigations-mr)

17 Jul 2017

The operator of two popular Melbourne restaurants is facing Court after a raid conducted as part of a joint-operation allegedly discovered employees had been underpaid almost \$31,000 over a period of just two weeks.

[Townsville café operator faces legal action over failure to pay compensation \(www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170714-port-douglas-investments-litigation\)](http://www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170714-port-douglas-investments-litigation)

14 Jul 2017

The former operator of a café at Townsville in regional Queensland is facing court for allegedly ignoring a Fair Work Commission order to compensate an employee who was unfairly dismissed.

[More than \\$140,000 recovered for local workers in Far North Queensland campaign \(www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170713-far-north-queensland-campaign-mr\)](http://www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170713-far-north-queensland-campaign-mr)

13 Jul 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has released the findings of its recent campaign targeting businesses in Cairns, Innisfail, Mission Beach and surrounding areas.

[No VIP treatment for guards allegedly dismissed, underpaid by Gold Coast company \(www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170712-vip-security-litigation\)](http://www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170712-vip-security-litigation)

12 Jul 2017

A Gold Coast security company owner is facing the Federal Circuit Court after allegedly threatening to send staff “straight to the dole queue” if they spoke to Fair Work Ombudsman inspectors.

[Subway franchisee faces Court over alleged deliberate underpayment of Chinese worker \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170707-subway-franchisee-litigation-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170707-subway-franchisee-litigation-mr)

7 Jul 2017

The franchisee of two Subway outlets in Sydney is facing Court for allegedly short-changing a Chinese worker more than \$16,000.

[New resources to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to navigate workplace rights \(www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170706-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-resources\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170706-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-resources)

6 Jul 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a suite of new resources aimed at helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees and employers to understand their workplace rights and responsibilities.

[Fruit farmer allegedly underpaid Malaysian workers and used false records \(www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170705-zucco-farming-litigation\)](http://www.fair-work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170705-zucco-farming-litigation)

5 Jul 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced legal action against a fruit farmer in northern Victoria for allegedly underpaying two Malaysian fruit pickers more than \$13,000 and providing false and misleading records to Fair Work inspectors.

Statement from the Fair Work Ombudsman: Private firms and workplace advisory services (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170704-fwo-statement-on-employsure)

4 Jul 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has received complaints from members of the public who claim they have been misled into believing that private businesses are, or were, connected or affiliated with the Fair Work Ombudsman or other government agencies.

Penalty over failure to back-pay Indian workers (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/july-2017/20170704-richmond-restaurant-penalty)

4 Jul 2017

A Fair Work Ombudsman legal action has secured a penalty against the former operator of an Indian restaurant in suburban Melbourne for failing to back-pay two underpaid Indian workers.

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Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

Need language help?

Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50

Hearing & speech assistance

Call through the National Relay Service (NRS):

For TTY: 13 36 77. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

The Fair Work Ombudsman is committed to providing advice that you can rely on. The information contained on this website is general in nature. If you are unsure about how it applies to your situation you can call our Infoline on 13 13 94 or speak with a union, industry association or workplace relations professional. Visitors are warned that this site may inadvertently contain names or pictures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have recently died.