

## 2017 media releases

### **Employer faces court for alleged underpayment of medical first aid responders**

**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171220-acute-health-litigation>)**

20 Dec 2017

The owner of a Melbourne health services company is facing court for allegedly short-changing medical first aid responders working at public events more than \$13,000 and using false pay records.

### **40 per cent of ACT businesses fail second chance (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171219-act-compliance-monitoring-campaign-mr>)**

19 Dec 2017

Canberra business operators are continuing to fall short of meeting their workplace obligations despite intervention from the Fair Work Ombudsman, a new report has found.

### **Legal action after 71yo worker allegedly underpaid at Queensland fast food outlet**

**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171215-wok-me-litigation>)**

15 Dec 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced legal action against the former operator of a fast food outlet in northern Queensland for the alleged underpayment of a 71-year-old employee.

### **Rogue operator penalised for exploiting overseas backpackers on NT mango farms**

**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171214-mango-shop-penalty>)**

14 Dec 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has secured a \$25,412 penalty in Court against a rogue operator who exploited overseas workers on mango farms near Darwin.

### **Political party leader who short-changed workers criticised for “arrogant” attitude**

**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171213-no-land-tax-penalty-release>)**

13 Dec 2017

A political party leader who promised to pay workers \$30 an hour to hand out how-to-vote cards but paid them nothing has been penalised in Court and criticised by a Judge for his “arrogant” attitude and lack of remorse.

### **Melbourne cleaning operator allegedly ignored warnings, exploited overseas workers**

**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171212-davdot-litigation>)**

12 Dec 2017

A contract cleaning operator in Melbourne is facing the Federal Circuit Court for allegedly exploiting three overseas workers, despite having been put on notice to pay employees' lawful minimum entitlements.

**[Sushi operator allegedly underpaid vulnerable workers in Canberra \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/About-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/December-2017/20171208-sushi-bay-litigation\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/About-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/December-2017/20171208-sushi-bay-litigation)**

8 Dec 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced legal action against the operator of a chain of sushi outlets for allegedly exploiting overseas workers in Canberra.

**[Caltex franchisee allegedly falsified records of wage rates paid to overseas workers \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171207-aulion-pty-ltd-litigation\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171207-aulion-pty-ltd-litigation)**

7 Dec 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced legal action against a Caltex franchisee in Sydney for allegedly falsifying records of the wage rates it paid to overseas workers.

**[Record WA penalties of more than \\$500,000 for systematic exploitation of overseas workers \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171205-povey-penalty\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/december-2017/20171205-povey-penalty)**

5 Dec 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has secured a total of \$510,840 in penalties against rogue cleaning operators in Perth, with a Judge slamming them for their "deliberate", "repeated" and "systematic" exploitation of vulnerable overseas workers.

**[Melbourne CBD outlets facing court for allegedly exploiting overseas workers \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171128-photoplus-choibros-litigations\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171128-photoplus-choibros-litigations)**

28 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced legal action against the operators of a café and a retail outlet in the Melbourne CBD for allegedly paying three overseas workers as little as \$11 an hour, resulting in almost \$45,000 in underpayments.

**[Albury-Wodonga businesses undergo check from workplace regulator \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171123-albury-wodonga-campaign\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171123-albury-wodonga-campaign)**

23 Nov 2017

Businesses across Albury-Wodonga are being audited by the workplace regulator with the Fair Work Ombudsman this week making unannounced visits to approximately 60 establishments in the region.

**[Fair Work Ombudsman targets businesses in Melbourne's inner eastern suburbs \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171120-melbourne-inner-east-campaign\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171120-melbourne-inner-east-campaign)**

20 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman's latest proactive compliance and education campaign is targeting at least 200 businesses in Melbourne's inner east.

**[FWO secures first accessorial liability penalties against an accounting firm \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171118-blue-impression-ezy-accounting-penalty\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171118-blue-impression-ezy-accounting-penalty)**

18 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has for the first time used accessorial liability laws to obtain penalties against a professional services firm for knowingly helping one of its clients exploit a vulnerable worker.

**[HR manager among those penalised almost \\$400,000 for “systematic” exploitation at restaurant \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171117-nsh-north-penalty-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171117-nsh-north-penalty-mr)**

17 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has secured almost \$400,000 in penalties against a company and three individuals – including an HR manager – for systematically exploiting overseas workers at a Chinese restaurant in NSW and fabricating records to try to cover it up.

**[FWO alleges contempt of court for first time \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171116-jorgensen-contempt-matter-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171116-jorgensen-contempt-matter-mr)**

16 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has alleged contempt of court by a Northern Queensland business operator by contravening a freezing order that applies to funds in his company's accounts.

**[Hobart restaurant operator allegedly underpaid vulnerable international students \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171115-waechter-anatolia-restaurant-litigation-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171115-waechter-anatolia-restaurant-litigation-mr)**

15 Nov 2017

The former operator of a Tasmanian restaurant is facing Court for allegedly underpaying vulnerable workers, despite having been put on notice to pay minimum wage rates.

**[More than \\$150,000 in penalties for “deliberate” underpayment of café and deli staff \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171115-koojedda-carpentry-penalty\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171115-koojedda-carpentry-penalty)**

15 Nov 2017

The former operators of a café and a delicatessen in Western Australia's South-West have been penalised more than \$150,000 for deliberately underpaying employees, after eight workers were found to have been short-changed a total of \$20,036.

**[Sham contracting arrangement results in penalty for Melbourne bike courier service \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171114-z-transport-boxbay-penalty\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171114-z-transport-boxbay-penalty)**

14 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has secured a total of \$72,000 in penalties against two companies after deliberate

sham contracting activity resulted in a bicycle courier in Melbourne being underpaid more than \$7000.

**[New tools empower young workers to stand up for their workplace rights \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171113-fya-resources-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171113-fya-resources-mr)**

13 Nov 2017

Young workers and apprentices will be better equipped to stand up for their rights in the workplace with new resources released today through a partnership between the Fair Work Ombudsman and the Foundation for Young Australians.

**[Higher compliance rates but still cause for concern in Healthcare sector \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171110-healthcare-campaign\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171110-healthcare-campaign)**

10 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman's National Healthcare and Social Assistance campaign has recovered more than \$100,000 for 193 workers across the industry.

**[Gippsland workers back-paid more than \\$21,000 \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171109-gippsland-avr-release\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171109-gippsland-avr-release)**

8 Nov 2017

Twenty one workers across Victoria's Gippsland region have been back-paid more than \$21,000 in wages and entitlements after intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

**[Multi-tasking backpacker back-paid more than \\$18,800 \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171106-hobart-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171106-hobart-mr)**

6 Nov 2017

A backpacker who worked as a restaurant manager, chef, waiter and bookkeeper at a restaurant in Hobart has been back-paid \$18,812 in outstanding wages and entitlements.

**[Global SIM card provider back in Court after alleged failure to get message \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171103-lycamobile-litigation-2-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171103-lycamobile-litigation-2-mr)**

3 Nov 2017

The Australian arm of a global mobile SIM card provider that was penalised \$59,400 for exploiting migrant workers is again facing legal action after the alleged underpayment of an employee at its NSW headquarters in Parramatta.

**[More in-language resources now online to help migrant workers understand their rights \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/02112017-in-language-resources-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/02112017-in-language-resources-mr)**

2 Nov 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman is making a difference for new arrivals to Australia with the development of six videos to help visa holders understand their workplace rights.

**[Brisbane burger outlet operators allegedly exploited young overseas workers \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171101-brisbane-burger-outlet-operators-allegedly-exploited-young-overseas-workers-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/20171101-brisbane-burger-outlet-operators-allegedly-exploited-young-overseas-workers-mr)**

**work.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/november-2017/0112017-miel-container-litigation-mr)**

1 Nov 2017

The operators of two Miel Container gourmet burger outlets in Brisbane are facing the Federal Circuit Court after 11 overseas workers were allegedly paid flat rates as low as \$10 an hour, resulting in more than \$155,000 in underpayments.

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**Contact us**

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