

## 2017 media releases

**Laser engineering company's bill nearly doubles after failure to pay unfair dismissal compo**  
<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/april-2017/20170403>

3 Apr 2017

A Melbourne engineering company and one of its directors have been penalised more than \$25,000 after the business ignored a Fair Work Commission (FWC) order to compensate a worker it unfairly dismissed.

**Campaign highlights underpayment of apprentices** (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170331-apprentices-campaign-report-mr>)

31 Mar 2017

A Fair Work Ombudsman report has revealed that one in three Australian businesses audited as part of the agency's National Apprenticeship Campaign failed to pay their apprentices correct wages.

**Wollongong targeted for unannounced audits** (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170331-wollongong-campaign-mr>)

31 Mar 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has conducted a series of unannounced audits in Wollongong in response to concerns young workers in the town are being exploited.

**Workplace audits indicate room for improvement for small businesses in Top End**  
<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170330-nt-fast-food-campaign-mr>

30 Mar 2017

Spot checks of 16 take-away and informal dining outlets in the suburbs of Darwin have found that more than 60 per cent were not compliant with workplace laws.

**Queensland labour-hire operator slammed for "appalling and egregious treatment" of visa-holders** (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170328-maroochy-sunshine-penalty>)

28 Mar 2017

A Queensland labour-hire company and its director have been penalised \$227,300 for deliberately exploiting vulnerable foreign workers after luring them to Australia with a string of false promises.

**Victorian business faces legal action over failure to pay compensation** (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170328-wch-litigations-mr>)

28 Mar 2017

A former trolley collecting services operator in regional Victoria is facing court for allegedly ignoring Fair Work Commission orders to compensate two employees who had been unfairly dismissed.

**[72 000 in penalties after international student exploited, dismissed by text message \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170327-golden-vision-2nd-penalty-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170327-golden-vision-2nd-penalty-mr)**

27 Mar 2017

The operator of a Queensland resort restaurant has been penalised for his “deliberate and calculated” conduct in exploiting a young international student and dismissing her by text message because she refused to accept below-Award wages.

**[Packing company delivered \\$220K penalty after “appalling greed” in underpaying migrant workers \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170324-acc-services-penalty\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170324-acc-services-penalty)**

24 Mar 2017

A Melbourne packing services business with a history of short-changing workers and one of its directors have been penalised more than \$220,000 for underpaying three staff, including two visa holders.

**[Judgment confirms Compliance Notice and \\$77,000 for Indian worker \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170323-hindu-society-judgment\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170323-hindu-society-judgment)**

23 Mar 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has won judicial support for the first review of a compliance notice.

**[New app, heavier penalties reinforce record-keeping as core business \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/About-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/March-2017/20170321-record-my-hours-op-ed\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/About-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/March-2017/20170321-record-my-hours-op-ed)**

21 Mar 2017

As workers get an innovative new tool to record their hours, it is time for businesses to take record-keeping as seriously as the courts and government.

**[Perth company faces Court over pregnancy discrimination allegations \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170320-austrend-litigation\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170320-austrend-litigation)**

20 Mar 2017

The operators of a Perth gourmet food distribution business are facing Court for allegedly discriminating against a pregnant employee.

**[New app to prevent exploitation of young and migrant workers \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170317-record-my-hours\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170317-record-my-hours)**

17 Mar 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has released a new app aimed at tackling the persistent problem of underpayment of young workers and migrant workers around the country.

**Regional NSW restaurant commits to change after underpaying workers more than \$22,000**  
**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170316-soul-food-eu-release>)**

16 Mar 2017

A restaurant in regional NSW has agreed to back-pay more than \$22,000 to 24 workers - including teenagers paid as little as \$7 per hour - following an audit by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

**Muffin Break and Jamaica Blue make a public commitment to compliance with workplace laws**  
**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170313-foodco-pcd-mr>)**

13 Mar 2017

One of Australia's leading businesses in the café sector has made a public commitment to ensure compliance with workplace laws across its 300 plus outlets by partnering with the Fair Work Ombudsman.

**Former Canberra café operator faces court** (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170310-gtig-litigation>)

10 Mar 2017

The former operator of a Canberra café is facing Court for alleged serious contraventions of record-keeping and pay slip laws.

**Perth security company allegedly underpaid guards \$200,000** (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170309-sureguard-security-litigation>)

9 Mar 2017

A Perth security company is facing Court for allegedly underpaying its guards more than \$200,000.

**Gold Coast restaurant operator allegedly paid overseas workers as little as \$8 an hour**  
**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170307-samurais-paradise-litigation>)**

7 Mar 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commenced legal action against the operator of a Japanese restaurant on the Gold Coast, alleging his company paid overseas workers as little as \$8 an hour and used false records to suggest he paid higher rates.

**A warning for growers, hostel owners and labour-hire contractors on wage rates**  
**(<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170306-warning-for-growers-mr>)**

6 Mar 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman is urging horticulture businesses to be vigilant when engaging workers from labour-hire operators this harvest season by making themselves aware of the minimum rates of pay for casual pickers under the Horticulture Award.

**Court action over alleged exploitation of migrant trolley collectors in Bendigo** (<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/march-2017/20170303-jobans-trolley-litigation>)

3 Mar 2017

A trolley collection subcontractor is facing Court for allegedly exploiting two migrant workers at Bendigo, in regional Victoria, and using false records to try to cover it up.

**[Seafarers reimbursed more than \\$100,000 by foreign shipping company \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170227-maritime-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170227-maritime-mr)**

27 Feb 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has recovered \$100,649 for ten seafarers from the Philippines who were underpaid while working in Australian waters.

**[\\$50,000 recovered for workers west of Melbourne \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170225-west-melbourne-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170225-west-melbourne-mr)**

25 Feb 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has assisted three workers in suburbs west of Melbourne to recover more than \$50,000.

**[\\$23,000 pay-day for workers north-east of Melbourne \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170225-north-east-melbourne-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170225-north-east-melbourne-mr)**

25 Feb 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has recovered \$23,432 for two workers in suburbs north-east of Melbourne.

**[Melbourne childcare operator back in Court \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170222-mahomet-litigation\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170222-mahomet-litigation)**

22 Feb 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a second legal action against the owner-operator of a Melbourne childcare business, alleging she has again underpaid workers thousands of dollars in minimum entitlements.

**[Melbourne restaurant dealt \\$100K blow after “egregious” underpayment of visa holder \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170221-food-republic-australia-penalty-media-release\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170221-food-republic-australia-penalty-media-release)**

21 Feb 2017

A Melbourne restaurant has been hit with a \$100,000 penalty after it “grossly exploited” a visa holder from Taiwan through underpayments worth more than \$30,000 in less than nine months.

**[FWO adopts Equitable Briefing Policy \(http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170220-ica-equitable-briefing-policy-mr\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2017-media-releases/february-2017/20170220-ica-equitable-briefing-policy-mr)**

20 Feb 2017

The FWO has recently signed up to a landmark new Equitable Briefing Policy launched by the Law Council of Australia. The policy is aimed at improving the briefing of women barristers across Australia.

## Contact us

Fair Work Online: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

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

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