

New minimum wage takes effect from Sunday

28 June 2018

The Fair Work Ombudsman is calling on businesses to check the new minimum pay rates that apply ahead of a new national minimum wage coming into effect from the first pay period on or after Sunday, 1 July 2018.

From this date, the national minimum wage will increase to \$719.20 per week, or \$18.93 per hour. The base rates of pay in modern awards will also increase.

This follows the Fair Work Commission's announcement of a 3.5 per cent increase to the national minimum wage earlier this month.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is the agency responsible for ensuring that workplace participants are aware of their obligations and workplace rights.

Fair Work Ombudsman Natalie James says it is important that employers check the new wage rates that apply to their businesses to ensure that they are paying their workers correctly.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's online materials, including its [Pay and Conditions Tool \(PACT\)](https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/) (<https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/>), have been updated to reflect the wage rate changes. The updated tool can assist employers and employees to calculate the new wage rates that will apply to them.

"Employers must take action to pass on the wage increase to their employees to make sure workers are receiving their full lawful entitlements," Ms James says.

"Too often we find that the underpayment of wages can be traced back to a failure by employers to apply annual wage rises.

"We are here to help employers remain up to date with their workplace obligations, but all employers have a responsibility to check the law and make sure they remain compliant to avoid unexpected costs later down the track.

"We are making this easier than ever with the great range of resources available on our website at www.fairwork.gov.au."

Earlier this year, the Fair Work Ombudsman launched its [Small Business Showcase](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/small-business-showcase) (www.fairwork.gov.au/small-business-showcase), an online hub to assist small businesses access the information and resources they need to ensure successful and compliant workplaces.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's online materials have also been updated to reflect further changes to penalty rates affecting the Hospitality, Pharmacy, Fast Food and Retail industries, as determined by the Fair Work Commission. These also come into effect from 1 July 2018.

Other changes will also apply to certain industries and modern awards, with all details available on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website.

Ms James encourages both employers and workers to access the free online tools and resources available at www.fairwork.gov.au or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 for assistance. Small businesses can opt for priority service by following the prompts and a free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

"Employers can also register for a free [My Account](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/my-account/registerpage.aspx) (www.fairwork.gov.au/my-account/registerpage.aspx) with us, which is an easy way to remain informed and receive tailored information relevant to their business," Ms James said.

Follow Fair Work Ombudsman Natalie James on Twitter [@NatJamesFWO](https://twitter.com/NatJamesFWO) (<http://twitter.com/NatJamesFWO>), the Fair Work Ombudsman [@fairwork_gov_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) (http://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au (<http://www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au>).

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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

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