

New minimum wage kicks in today

1 July 2019

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) is reminding employers that the national minimum wage has today increased to \$19.49 per hour (up from \$18.93), or \$740.80 per week (up from \$719.20).

On 30 May 2019, the Fair Work Commission (FWC) announced a three per cent increase to the national minimum wage, following its Annual Wage Review (<https://www.fwc.gov.au/awards-agreements/minimum-wages-conditions/annual-wage-reviews/annual-wage-review-2018-19/decisions>) ¹. This increase applies from the first full pay period starting on or after 1 July 2019.

The FWO is also reminding businesses that further changes to certain penalty rates in the Hospitality, Pharmacy, Fast Food and Retail industries come into effect today, following determination from the FWC.

Fair Work Ombudsman Sandra Parker said that workplace compliance issues are often traced back to employers failing to update rates of pay.

"The Fair Work Ombudsman has a range of free tools available to help employers comply with their workplace obligations, which have been updated to reflect the new pay rates. We urge all businesses to visit our [Pay and Conditions Tool \(https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/\)](https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/) to check the lawful minimum rates that they need to pay their staff, or to contact us directly for assistance," Ms Parker said.

For employees covered by an award, base rates will also increase by three per cent today.

"We encourage workers who receive award wages, such as juniors, apprentices and trainees, to visit our [Pay and Conditions Tool \(https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/\)](https://calculate.fairwork.gov.au/) and familiarise yourself with your new rates of pay. If you are unsure which award applies to you, you can use our [Find my award \(https://www.fairwork.gov.au/awards-and-agreements/awards/find-my-award/\)](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/awards-and-agreements/awards/find-my-award/) tool. Any workers with concerns about their pay should contact the Fair Work Ombudsman," Ms Parker said.

The FWO has industry specific tools such as interactive graphics for the [Fast Food Award \(https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/fast-food-restaurants-cafes/fast-food-industry\)](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/fast-food-restaurants-cafes/fast-food-industry) and [Restaurant Award \(https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/fast-food-restaurants-cafes/restaurant-cafes-industry\)](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/fast-food-restaurants-cafes/restaurant-cafes-industry), which provide tailored information about pay rates and conditions.

The FWO also has further information available on the [Penalty rates changes \(https://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay/penalty-rates-and-allowances/penalty-rates-changes-2017\)](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/pay/penalty-rates-and-allowances/penalty-rates-changes-2017), including who they affect and how they are being implemented.

Employees and employers can visit www.fairwork.gov.au or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 for free advice and assistance about their workplace rights and obligations. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

The [Fair Work Ombudsman \(https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/our-role\)](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/our-role) enforces compliance with the Fair Work Act 2009, related legislation, awards and registered agreements (<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/Dictionary.aspx?TermID=2034>) and help employers and employees by providing advice and education on pay rates and workplace conditions.

The [Fair Work Commission \(https://www.fwc.gov.au/about-us\)](https://www.fwc.gov.au/about-us) ² is the independent national workplace relations tribunal. It is responsible for maintaining a safety net of minimum wages and employment conditions, as well as a range of other workplace functions and regulation.

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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.