

## Fair Work inspectors to make educational visits to Newcastle-Hunter employers

7 April 2010

The Fair Work Ombudsman will make educational visits to more than 500 businesses in the Newcastle-Hunter region over the next three months.

Fair Work inspectors will visit about 30 businesses in Lambton, 30 in New Lambton, 50 in The Entrance, 50 in The Junction, 80 in Tuggerah, 50 in Tuncurry, 30 in Broadmeadow, 50 in Cessnock, 70 in East Maitland, 60 in Kurri Kurri, 40 in Morisset and 50 across Nelson Bay-Shoal Bay-Fingal Bay.

Inspectors will doorknock employers to provide information packs to employers entering the national workplace relations system for the first time. They will focus on commercial and industrial precincts.

This follows educational visits to 50 businesses in Singleton, 25 in Wallsend, 50 in Newcastle and 25 in Scone last month.

Fair Work Ombudsman NSW Director Mark Davidson says the informal visits are aimed at assisting employers to understand changes to national workplace laws, including the introduction of the National Employment Standards and Modern Awards.

The information packs include helpful resources such as fact sheets, templates and Best Practice Guides and provide advice about practical steps employers can take to adjust to the new system.

This year, the Fair Work Ombudsman will make educational visits to 10,000 employers in NSW, 10,000 in Queensland, 5000 in South Australia and 1000 in Tasmania. There will be additional visits in 2011 and 2012.

"We are very serious about our job of building knowledge and creating fairer workplaces and we are strongly focused on ensuring the community understands its workplace rights and obligations," Mr Davidson said.

"The best advice I can give to business operators is to get the basics right and everything else should start to fall into place.

"By the basics, I mean knowing what Award applies to your employees, what the correct classifications for your employees are and what pay rates apply."

The Fair Work Ombudsman has more than 200 advisers available to speak with business operators on its Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-to-6pm weekdays. For translations call 13 14 50.

Relevant, up-to-date and user-friendly resources are also available at [www.fwo.gov.au](http://www.fwo.gov.au)

The Fair Work Ombudsman has contracted the services of State Government industrial relations agencies in NSW, Queensland and South Australia following their recent referral of state powers to the Commonwealth.

As a result, the Fair Work Ombudsman now has more than 450 workplace inspectors operating out of 59 offices across the country.

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## Contact us

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