

Parents can help ensure children get a fair go at work, says Fair Work Ombudsman

20 April 2010

Parents of apprentices and trainees are being urged to check that their children are not missing out on their entitlements at work.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says parents can play an important role by keeping an eye on children taking up their first job.

"Mum and Dad are often the first people that young workers will ask if they have got questions about their employment," Mr Campbell said.

"Knowledge is the best defence for young workers against being unwittingly taken advantage of, and we encourage parents to help their sons and daughters to understand their workplace rights."

The Fair Work Ombudsman is also helping to enlist the support of high school careers advisors and group training organisations, and is now writing to thousands of advisors across Australia.

Mr Campbell says advisors also play a valuable role in helping young people to make important decisions about their future and is encouraging them to help promote improved understanding of workplace entitlements.

Free information is available at www.fwo.gov.au/apprenticestrainees for school lesson plans.

Other materials available at www.fwo.gov.au include a young workers' interactive video, an employment checklist, Best Practice Guide for young workers and information on minimum pay rates.

Young workers can also call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-6pm weekdays for advice and assistance.

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Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

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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