

Court fines Sydney company \$148,500 for underpaying two workers

6 August 2010

The NSW Chief Industrial Magistrate's Court yesterday fined a Sydney company \$148,500 for underpaying two of its workers.

The penalty was imposed on Rockdale-based D.Z. Import & Export Trading Co. Pty Ltd following a prosecution by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The Court also fined the company's sole director, Zheng Ming Zhu, of Hurstville Grove, a further \$29,700 for his involvement in the underpayments.

The penalties follow the company's failure to comply with a Court Order in April to repay the two employees, plus interest.

An investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman found that the company underpaid two full-time male workers, a book-keeper and a stock controller, \$8714 and \$12,180 respectively.

The men, who speak limited English, have returned to China.

The underpayments related to their minimum hourly rate, overtime and annual leave entitlements in 2006-07.

D.Z. Import & Export Trading Co. also made unlawful deductions from the wages of both employees for public holidays.

The Fair Work Ombudsman prosecuted the company and Zhu because of the size of the underpayments, the employees were vulnerable and the employer failed to rectify the matter.

Employers or employees seeking assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 or visit www.fwo.gov.au. For translations call 13 14 50.

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