

Melbourne paint retailer faces court for allegedly underpaying workers \$25,000

5 February 2010

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a prosecution against a former Melbourne paint retailer for allegedly underpaying five workers more than \$25,000.

Facing court is Pride Paints Pty Ltd, which formerly traded as The Paint Factory at Bayswater North and other locations around the metropolitan area.

The Agency is also prosecuting Pride Paints' sole director Eberhard Pepler.

Documents lodged in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court allege Pride Paints underpaid five workers employed as shop assistants at The Paint Factory outlet in Bayswater North a total of \$25,524 between 2006 and 2009.

The alleged underpayments included the minimum hourly rate and penalty rates for weekend, public holiday and overtime work.

The five staff no longer work for Pride Paints.

One of the employees was allegedly underpaid almost \$11,500.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says the decision to prosecute was made because of the significant amounts involved and the employer's failure to rectify the matter.

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Pride Paints and Mr Pepler committed several breaches of workplace relations laws.

The Agency is seeking penalties and a Court Order for entitlements allegedly outstanding to be back-paid. The maximum potential penalty per breach is \$33,000 for Pride Paints and \$6600 for Mr Pepler.

The Fair Work Ombudsman promotes harmonious, productive and co-operative workplaces. It also monitors compliance and investigates breaches of national workplace laws.

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

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Page reference No: 4414

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Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

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Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50

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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

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