

## Underpaid pilots are back-paid \$50,000

6 June 2010

Three pilots in south-west Victoria are being reimbursed \$50,000 after an investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman found they were underpaid.

The pilots – who all worked for the one company – lodged complaints with the Fair Work Ombudsman after they were underpaid wages, annual leave entitlements and allowances.

After Fair Work inspectors contacted the employer and explained its obligations, a payment plan was agreed on to ensure the workers are fully back-paid.

The largest individual underpayment was \$19,500 for one of the pilots.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says that given the employer has co-operated and agreed to voluntarily rectify the underpayments, there will be no further action against the company involved.

Last month, a pilot based at Katherine, in the Northern Territory, was reimbursed \$17,000 after Fair Work inspectors intervened on his behalf following a complaint that he was not paid for all hours worked, did not receive payment in lieu of notice or annual leave entitlements.

“Our preference is always to work with employers to educate them and help them voluntary rectify any non-compliance issues,” Mr Campbell said.

Since March, 2006, the Fair Work Ombudsman has recouped a total of \$107 million for Australian employees underpaid at work.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of tools on its website - [www.fwo.gov.au](http://www.fwo.gov.au) - to assist employees and employers to check minimum rates of pay, including Paycheck.

Small to medium-sized businesses without human resources staff can also ensure they are better equipped when hiring, managing and dismissing employees by using free template employment documentation with step-by-step instructions or accessing a series of Best Practice Guides.

Employers or employees seeking assistance or further information can also contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-6pm weekdays. For translations, call 13 14 50.

Note: we are unable to provide additional information on the cases listed above.

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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.