

## Geraldton security officers back-paid \$28,000

14 June 2010

Fourteen security officers at Geraldton in WA have been back-paid a total of \$28,400 after a targeted investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman found they were underpaid.

The biggest individual underpayment was \$6700.

The Fair Work Ombudsman audited the Geraldton security company as part of a national campaign which recovered more than \$677,000 for 803 workers.

Inspectors found the company was paying workers a flat-rate and not paying penalty rates or allowances.

The company had also failed to register a workplace agreement.

After Fair Work inspectors contacted the employer and explained its obligations, the workers were back-paid in full.

Fair Work Ombudsman WA Director Leigh Quealy says that because the employer co-operated and voluntarily rectified the matter, there will be no further action against the company.

"Our preference is to work with employers to educate and help them voluntarily rectify any non-compliance issues we identify," he said.

Mr Quealy says employers need to regularly review their Award or agreement to ensure they are complying with workplace laws.

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 and PayrollCheck.

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.

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Page reference No: 4543

### Contact us

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

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