

Bordertown tradesman back-paid almost \$8000 after regulator intervenes

21 June 2010

A Bordertown tradesman has been reimbursed \$7900 after an investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman found he had been underpaid for six years.

The tradesman lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after his hourly rate had not been increased in line with the Federal Minimum Wage.

After Fair Work inspectors contacted the company to explain its obligations, the worker was back-paid in full.

Fair Work Ombudsman SA Director Carey Trundle says most underpayments result from a lack of understanding by employers of their legal obligations, including wages and conditions.

"That's why the Fair Work Ombudsman places such a strong focus on educating employers and assisting them to understand and comply with workplace laws," Ms Trundle said.

"In most cases, the Fair Work Ombudsman does not prosecute employers for inadvertent breaches of workplace laws.

"Our preference is always to assist employers to voluntarily rectify any non-compliance issues we identify."

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of tools on its website - 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 available online.

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.

Throughout 2010, the Fair Work Ombudsman will visit up to 5000 SA employers who are entering the national workplace relations system for the first time to provide practical information and advice.

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Contact us

Fair Work Online: 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

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.