

\$35,000 back-pay for three Darwin workers

3 March 2010

A Darwin business has reimbursed a mechanic a total of \$15,000 after a recent investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman found he was underpaid.

The mechanic lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman when he was not paid the correct penalty rates for overtime.

Fair Work inspectors raised the issue with the man's employer, who voluntarily reimbursed the worker \$15,160.

In a separate case, two caravan park workers in Darwin have also been back-paid a total \$20,000 after their employer was not paying weekend or penalty rates.

The employer was paying the two workers a flat rate for all hours worked.

After Fair Work inspectors contacted the business, the workers were promptly back-paid \$14,400 and \$5600 respectively.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says that because the employers fully co-operated with inspectors and voluntarily rectified the underpayments, no further action will be taken.

"We have a flexible, fair approach and our preference is always to work with employers to educate them and help them voluntarily rectify any non-compliance issues we identify," he said.

"However, employers need to be aware that they can face fines of up \$33,000 per breach if we do take matters to court."

The Fair Work Ombudsman can help workers and employers to understand their rights and obligations under new National Employment Standards and Modern Awards, which took effect on January 1, 2010.

The Agency has a range of user-friendly resources to assist employers and workers comply with workplace laws and operate their business according to best practice.

Employers or employees seeking assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 or visit www.fwo.gov.au where payslip and record-keeping templates and other tools are available. For translations call 13 14 50.

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

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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.