

Brisbane managers face court for allegedly underpaying workers \$70,000

14 March 2010

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a prosecution against three managers of a Brisbane company - Enterprise Car Rental Group Pty Ltd - for allegedly underpaying eight workers more than \$70,000.

Facing court is company manager and sole director Nathan Conn, of Northgate, and senior managers Tony Hinai, of Hendra, and George Halliday, of Beachmere.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is unable to take legal action against the company because it is in liquidation.

Documents lodged in the Federal Magistrates Court in Brisbane allege that Mr Conn, Mr Hinai and Mr Halliday were involved in Enterprise Car Rental Group underpaying eight staff a total of \$70,381 between 2006 and 2008.

The employees, who performed various roles, were allegedly underpaid their minimum hourly rate, annual and sick leave entitlements, superannuation, pay in lieu of notice, meal break pay and penalty rates for weekend and overtime work.

The Fair Work Ombudsman will allege Mr Conn, Mr Hinai and Mr Halliday also allegedly breached workplace laws by requiring the employees to arrive early for unpaid work before starting their paid shift and not paying employees to attend after-hours meetings.

The three managers were also allegedly involved in Enterprise Car Rental Group failing to pay compensation to one of the employees after the workplace agreement he was employed under failed a fairness test.

Fair Work Ombudsman Queensland Director Julie Wade says the decision to launch the prosecution was made because of the significant amount involved and the employer's failure to rectify the matter.

It is alleged Mr Conn, Mr Hinai and Mr Halliday committed multiple breaches of workplace relations laws. They each face maximum fines of \$6600 per breach.

The Fair Work Ombudsman intends to seek orders for part of any penalties imposed to be paid to the workers. The case is listed for hearing on July 12-13.

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

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Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

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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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