

Gold Coast salon allegedly underpaid young hairdresser \$10,000

17 March 2010

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a prosecution against the former owner of a Gold Coast salon for allegedly underpaying a young hairdresser more than \$10,000.

Facing court is former Gold Coast woman Nicole Maree Darcy, who now lives in Melbourne.

Ms Darcy was the sole owner and director of Versailles Pty Ltd, which has been deregistered.

Through her company, Ms Darcy owned and managed the Sassy Hair Art salon at Southport until early last year.

Documents lodged in the Federal Magistrates Court in Brisbane allege Ms Darcy was involved in her company underpaying a young hairdresser a total of \$10,114 when it employed her full-time from August, 2007 to April, 2008.

The employee, aged 25 at the time, was allegedly underpaid her minimum hourly rate and annual leave entitlements as a result of being paid apprentice rates, despite never being registered as an apprentice.

Under workplace laws, only officially registered apprentices can be paid apprentice rates.

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

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Ms Darcy was involved in committing three breaches of workplace laws. The maximum potential penalty per breach is \$6600.

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

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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Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

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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

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