

\$120,000 back-pay for workers in Perth

2 November 2010

Workers in and around Perth have been back-paid almost \$120,000 as a result of recent investigations by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The biggest recovery was \$20,000 for a Canning Vale company director who was underpaid annual leave entitlements.

In another case, a personal assistant working at a business in Wooroloo has been reimbursed \$15,900 after inspectors found the employee was not paid correct annual leave entitlements.

And \$14,000 has been recouped for a marketing manager in Bayswater who was not paid two months' salary or accrued annual leave.

The underpayments were discovered through a combination of routine audits and investigations into complaints from workers.

Last financial year, the Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$2.65 million for 1634 Western Australians who were underpaid at work.

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$12,800 for a Fremantle worker in the shipping industry underpaid redundancy entitlements,
- \$12,500 for a Wangara manager not paid for all hours worked,
- \$8800 for a Maddington supervisor not paid redundancy entitlements,
- \$8200 for an Osborne Park apprentice underpaid wages and allowances,
- \$6900 for an Osborne Park cleaner underpaid long service leave entitlements,
- \$6200 for a Subiaco health professional underpaid sick leave,
- \$5400 for an Osborne Park sales manager who was not paid wages, annual leave or payment in lieu of notice,
- \$5000 for a South Perth real estate agent underpaid commission, and
- \$5000 for an Osborne Park supervisor not paid in lieu of notice.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says most of the underpayments were the result of a lack of understanding by employers of their legal obligations with respect to wages and entitlements.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of tools on its website - www.fairwork.gov.au - to assist employees and employers to check minimum rates of pay.

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.

Media inquiries:

Craig Bildstien, Director, Media & Stakeholder Relations,
0419 818 484
craig.bildstien@fwo.gov.au

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.