

## Sydney cleaning company owner faces court over alleged underpayment

12 November 2010

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a prosecution against the owner-operator of a former Sydney cleaning company over almost \$3500 in alleged underpayments of three workers.

Facing court is Rosario Pucci, of Forest Lodge, who owned and ran Wash and Go Pty Ltd before the company went into liquidation earlier this year.

Through his company, Mr Pucci operated a number of businesses, including My Car Wash Café on Liverpool Rd, Enfield, and a contract cleaning service.

Documents lodged in the Federal Magistrates Court in Sydney allege Mr Pucci was centrally involved in his company underpaying two full-time café workers at the Liverpool Rd site \$2813 in wages and annual leave entitlements between 2007 and 2009.

It is alleged Mr Pucci was also centrally involved in his company underpaying a part-time office cleaner \$655 in 2009, making the total alleged underpayment of the three employees \$3468.

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Mr Pucci was also centrally involved in his company failing to issue pay slips to the three employees in line with workplace laws.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says the decision to prosecute Mr Pucci was made because of the alleged underpayment of low-paid, vulnerable workers and the employer's failure to rectify the matter.

"We also took into consideration that we have received a number of complaints against Mr Pucci's company in recent years and have secured back-pay for several underpaid employees of the company," he said.

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Mr Pucci committed three breaches of workplace laws related to underpayments and one related to pay slips.

Mr Pucci faces a maximum potential penalty per breach of \$6600 for the underpayment breaches and \$1100 for the pay slip breach.

The case is listed for a directions hearing on November 18.

Employers or employees seeking information or assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 between 8am and 6pm weekdays or visit [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au). For translations call 13 14 50.

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Fair Work Online: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au)

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