

\$2.5 million in grants to assist educate employers about modern awards

1 October 2010

The Fair Work Ombudsman has offered grants to a number of peak bodies to assist educate employers, particularly those running small businesses, about changes to modern awards.

Earlier this year, the Fair Work Ombudsman invited some of Australia's leading employer and industry groups to put forward ideas for new guidance materials to help raise awareness of modern awards among employers.

Following a competitive selection process, 15 organisations have been offered a total of 25 grants worth \$2.5 million.

They are: Aged & Community Services Australia, Australian Hotels Association, Australian Industry Group, Australian Medical Association, Australian Road Transport Industry Organisation, Australian Security Industry Association, Building Services Contractors of Australia, Clubs Australia, Hair and Beauty Australia, Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Australia, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, National Electrical and Communications Association, National Farmers' Federation and National Retail Association.

The grants are being offered under the Fair Work Ombudsman's Shared Industry Assistance Program (SIAP).

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the program aims to better inform employers about the changes to modern awards applicable to their industries.

Subject to all offers being accepted, the grant recipients will provide educative materials on 25 different modern awards, including those affecting the retail, aged care, health, clerical support services, horticulture, and on-site building and construction industries.

"The industries being targeted are among those we think are most in need of targeted information," Mr Wilson said.

Materials produced will be available for free to all employers over the coming months on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website at www.fairwork.gov.au.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a range of tools and resources on its website to assist employers to understand and comply with workplace laws, including the National Employment Standards and modern awards.

Employers seeking further information can also contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-6pm weekdays. For translations, call 13 14 50.

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Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

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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

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

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.