

Macedon Ranges workers back-paid \$28,000

1 October 2010

Two workers in Victoria's Macedon Ranges have been reimbursed \$28,000 after an investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest underpayment was \$15,000 for a Kyneton apprentice who was underpaid his hourly rate.

The worker lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after he was paid as an apprentice, despite no formal apprenticeship being registered.

After Fair Work inspectors contacted the company and explained that apprentice wage rates can only be paid to registered apprentices, the employer immediately back-paid the worker.

In another recent case, a casual Woodend cleaner has been back-paid \$13,000.

The worker lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after he was underpaid his casual hourly rate.

Similarly, after inspectors contacted the business and explained its obligations, the worker was back paid in full.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says that given the employers both co-operated and voluntarily rectified the underpayments, there will be no further action.

"Our preference is always to work with employers to educate them and help them voluntarily rectify any non-compliance issues," he said.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of new tools on its website at 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.

Information and advice is also available from the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 between 8am and 6pm weekdays. For translations, call 13 14 50.

Note: we are unable to provide additional information on the cases listed above.

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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.