

## Launceston apprentice back-paid \$14,400 after regulator intervenes

13 October 2010

An apprentice in Launceston is being reimbursed more than \$14,400 after the Fair Work Ombudsman intervened.

The worker lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after he was paid as an apprentice despite the apprenticeship never being registered.

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

The employer agreed to repay the money in instalments over three months.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says it is important employers do not delay lodgements of apprenticeship agreements for young workers.

“When inspectors come across cases where employers have been erroneously paying a worker apprentice rates for some time, the business can find itself faced with a significant back-payment,” he said.

Mr Campbell says that given the employer co-operated and voluntarily rectified the matters, there will be no further action against the company.

“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 tools on its website - [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://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 available online.

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.

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## Contact us

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

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