

Suburban Melbourne workers share in \$330,000 back-payments

12 August 2011

Dozens of workers in suburban Melbourne have recently been back-paid a total of \$329,000 following intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$38,800 for a Warrandyte hospitality worker who was underpaid the minimum hourly rate and overtime and not paid annual leave entitlements or wages in lieu of notice.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says once a Fair Work inspector contacted the business and explained its obligations, the employee was promptly reimbursed all money owed.

In a separate case, 11 Chadstone hospitality staff were reimbursed a total of \$25,500 when it was discovered they had been underpaid the minimum hourly rate and not paid weekend, late-night or public holiday penalty rates.

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$18,800 for a Donvale health worker not paid for time worked and underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$17,700 for a Blackburn retail assistant underpaid the minimum hourly rate and not paid penalty rates
- \$14,700 for a Notting Hill apprentice underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$13,600 for a Burwood storeman underpaid the minimum hourly rate, not paid penalty rates and not issued payslips
- \$12,000 for a Bulleen mechanic underpaid the minimum hourly rate, not paid penalty rates, allowances, commission or for time worked and not issued payslips
- \$10,000 for a Box Hill mechanic not paid personal leave and annual leave entitlements
- \$10,000 for a Mount Waverley accountant not paid annual leave and long service leave entitlements
- \$10,000 for a Cremorne customer service officer underpaid the minimum hourly rate and leave entitlements
- \$9700 for a Box Hill site manager not paid wages in lieu of notice
- \$9500 for a Carlton North chef not paid annual leave entitlements
- \$9500 for a Bayswater supervisor underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$9000 for a Lilydale security guard underpaid allowances and penalty rates
- \$8700 for an East Melbourne IT manager not paid annual leave entitlements and wages in lieu
- \$8500 for a Healesville mechanic underpaid the minimum hourly rate and not paid penalty rates
- \$8500 for a Hawthorn customer service officer underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$8200 for a Collingwood cleaner underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$8000 for a Bayswater customer service officer underpaid the minimum hourly rate and not paid penalty rates and overtime
- \$7800 for a Wonga Park apprentice underpaid the minimum hourly rate and not paid allowances or annual leave entitlements
- \$7700 for a Blackburn shop assistant underpaid the minimum hourly rate, not paid annual leave entitlements and wages in lieu of notice, and not issued payslips
- \$7500 for a Croydon hairdresser underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$7000 for a Bayswater clerk not paid for time worked
- \$6600 for a Prahran administrative assistant underpaid the minimum hourly rate and not paid annual leave entitlements
- \$6500 for a Ringwood sales manager underpaid the minimum hourly rate and not paid annual leave entitlements
- \$6200 for an apprentice cook in The Basin underpaid the minimum hourly rate and penalty rates and not paid annual leave entitlements
- \$6100 for a Hawthorn East carer underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$6000 for a Camberwell hairdresser underpaid the minimum hourly rate
- \$5900 for a Richmond store manager not paid annual leave entitlements
- \$5800 for a South Yarra receptionist underpaid the minimum hourly rate, and
- \$5200 for a Yering hospitality worker underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates and leave entitlements.

"It's a fact that some businesses inadvertently breach workplace laws. When we find mistakes, we're here to help and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily fix them," said Mr Wilson.

“Each of these businesses has now corrected the errors that led to the underpayments and put processes in place to ensure they will not happen again.”

The Fair Work Ombudsman provides a single point of contact for people working or running a business in Australia to get accurate information about their workplace rights and obligations.

Melbourne business-owners can get advice from the Fair Work Ombudsman via its website at www.fairwork.gov.au or by calling the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-6pm weekdays.

A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50 and information on the website is translated into 27 different languages.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has developed tools and resources, including PayCheck, Payroll Check, a Pay Rates Calculator and an Award Finder, to assist employers calculate the correct pay for their employees.

Free documentation is also available Online to aid employers when hiring, managing and dismissing staff, including letters of engagement and probation, timesheet and pay slip templates, leave application forms, a self-audit check list and workplace complaint form.

Follow the Fair Work Ombudsman on [@fairwork_gov_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au)  (https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) .

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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.