

## Adelaide apprentice cook back-paid \$20,000

6 December 2011

An apprentice cook at Parkside in Adelaide has been back-paid a total of \$20,000 following intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The male employee, aged in his 20s, lodged a complaint after getting first-year apprentice pay-rates for the duration of his four-year apprenticeship.

A Fair Work inspector found the employee was consequently underpaid the minimum hourly rate, overtime and public holiday penalty rates between 2006 and 2010.

After the inspector contacted the business and explained its obligations, the employee was reimbursed all money owed without the need for further action against the employer.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$1.579 million back-pay for 1048 underpaid workers in South Australia last financial year. Nationally, the Agency recouped a total of \$26.7 million for 17,360 underpaid employees.

"It's a fact that some businesses inadvertently breach workplace laws. When we find mistakes, we're here to assist and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily fix them," says Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson.

"The Adelaide business has now corrected the errors that led to the underpayments and put processes in place to ensure they will not happen again."

Workers or employers seeking support should get in touch with the Fair Work Ombudsman via the website - [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) - or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

The website has a number of tools and resources, including PayCheck Plus and an Award Finder, to assist business-owners to calculate the correct pay for their employees.

A section of the website is dedicated to providing information specific to employment of apprentices and trainees.

Free documentation is available Online for employers to use 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 [Twitter @fairwork\\_gov\\_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) ([https://twitter.com/fairwork\\_gov\\_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au)).

Media inquiries:

Ryan Pedler, Assistant Director, Media & Stakeholder Relations  
(03) 9954 2561, 0411 430 902  
[ryan.pedler@fwo.gov.au](mailto:ryan.pedler@fwo.gov.au)

Page reference No: 4452

### Contact us

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