

\$4000 back-pay for Phillip Island worker

9 February 2011

The Fair Work Ombudsman has helped secure more than \$4000 back-pay for a Phillip Island tourism industry worker.

The Fair Work Ombudsman investigated the case after the retail assistant lodged an underpayment complaint.

The employee was concerned she had not received her full entitlements when she worked for Uneek Souvenirs, at Cowes, between October, 2007 and May, 2008.

Fair Work inspectors investigated and found that Uneek Souvenirs had underpaid the employee's minimum hourly rate and penalty rates for weekend, night, overtime and public holiday work.

The business had also failed to pay her meal allowances, sick leave entitlements and annual leave entitlements.

After Uneek Souvenirs failed to respond to numerous requests to back-pay the employee, Fair Work inspectors assisted her to lodge a small claims application in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

The Court has subsequently instructed the company to back-pay the employee \$4128, which she has now received.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says inspectors are committed to going the extra yard to ensure workers receive their full and lawful entitlements.

"Any worker, including current or former employees of Uneek Souvenirs, concerned they may have been underpaid or treated unfairly should get in touch with the Fair Work Ombudsman," Mr Campbell said.

Mr Campbell said employers need to be aware that it is their responsibility to make sure they are paying employees correctly.

"Any employer uncertain about which Award applies to their staff and what the correct classifications and pay rates are should get in touch with us for free advice," he said.

Employers and employees seeking advice and assistance should visit www.fairwork.gov.au or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-6pm weekdays. Translations are available by calling 13 14 50.

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Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

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Call through the National Relay Service (NRS):

For TTY: 13 36 77. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

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