

\$20,000 back-pay for two workers at Alice Springs

17 January 2011

Two workers at Alice Springs in the Northern Territory have been back paid more than \$20,000 after recent investigations by the Fair Work Ombudsman found they were underpaid.

The largest underpayment was \$15,600 for an executive officer.

The executive lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after he was not paid accrued annual leave entitlements.

After Fair Work inspectors contacted the company and explained its obligations, the employer agreed to back-pay the worker.

In another case, a local truck driver has been back-paid \$5300 after he was not paid his contractual entitlements.

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

“We have a flexible, fair approach and our preference is always to work with employers to educate them and help them voluntarily rectify any non-compliance issues we identify,” he said.

Mr Campbell says that in most cases, the Fair Work Ombudsman does not prosecute employers for inadvertent breaches of workplace laws.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of tools and user-friendly resources on its website - 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.

The 'Industries' section on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website provides information specifically tailored for employers and workers in the retail, cleaning, clerical, hair and beauty, security and horticulture industries.

Employers and employees seeking advice or assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. Translations are available by calling 13 14 50.

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Page reference No: 4843

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Fair Work Online: 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