

More than \$35,000 recovered for underpaid workers in WA's Kimberley region

20 January 2011

A number of workers in Western Australia's Kimberley region have been reimbursed \$36,400 after recent investigations by the Fair Work Ombudsman found they were being underpaid.

The largest underpayments were \$22,900 for two workers in Fitzroy Crossing who were underpaid their penalty rates.

After Broome-based Fair Work inspectors contacted the employer and explained its obligations, the workers received all their outstanding entitlements.

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$8000 for a worker in the engineering field at Karratha not paid wages and annual leave entitlements, and
- \$5500 for a Broome tradesman underpaid annual leave entitlements.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says that given the employers co-operated with inspectors and voluntarily rectified the underpayments, 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 employers need to regularly review their Award or agreement to ensure they are fully aware of their obligations to their workers.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of tools 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.

Online resources also include payslip and record-keeping templates, a self-audit checklist and fact sheets.

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.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has offices in all capital cities and 40 regional locations across Australia including an office located at 23 Coghlan Street, Broome.

Note: We are unable to provide additional information on the cases listed above.

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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.