

Retailer faces Court over alleged underpayment

2 March 2011

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a prosecution against the operators of a Brisbane computer hardware retailer for allegedly underpaying one of its workers almost \$6000.

Facing court are Wi-Man Pty Ltd and Macquarie Technology Group International Pty Ltd.

Also facing court is Paul Desmond Wallace, a director, shareholder and manager of the companies.

The two companies have imported and distributed computer hardware, mainly wireless modems for radio devices.

Documents lodged in the Federal Magistrates Court in Brisbane allege Mr Wallace was involved in the companies underpaying an accountant \$5946.

It is alleged the accountant was employed by Wi-Man from September, 2006 to June, 2008 and by Macquarie Technology Group International from July, 2008 to April, 2009.

Wi-Man allegedly failed to pay the employee \$1408 in accrued annual leave entitlements on termination in June, 2008.

Macquarie Technology Group International allegedly failed to pay \$3593 in accrued annual leave entitlements on termination in April, 2009 and wages of \$945.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says the employer's failure to rectify the underpayment was a key factor in the Agency's decision to litigate.

Mr Wallace was allegedly involved in Wi-Man committing one breach of workplace laws and in Macquarie Technology Group International committing two breaches.

Mr Wallace faces maximum penalties of \$6600 per breach and the companies each face maximum penalties of \$33,000 per breach.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is also seeking Court Orders for back-payment of the entitlements allegedly still outstanding.

Employers or employees seeking assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 or visit www.fairwork.gov.au. For translations call 13 14 50.

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Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

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

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