

\$127,000 back-pay for underpaid workers in suburban Sydney

4 March 2011

Recent investigations by the Fair Work Ombudsman have resulted in \$127,300 being recovered for a number of workers in suburban Sydney.

The largest recovery was \$23,000 for a Wetherill Park security guard underpaid his hourly rate, overtime and penalties.

In separate cases, a Castle Hill merchandiser has been reimbursed \$14,000 after being underpaid the hourly rate and a Richmond engineer \$13,100 after he was not paid for time worked or annual leave.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says that as all employers co-operated with inspectors and voluntarily rectified the matters, there will be no further action.

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

In most cases, the Fair Work Ombudsman does not prosecute employers for inadvertent breaches of workplace laws.

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$10,400 for a Richmond maintenance officer underpaid the minimum hourly rate,
- \$9500 for a St Marys receptionist not paid termination entitlements,
- \$9200 for an Ermington business manager unpaid annual leave,
- \$8800 for an Erskineville driver not paid annual leave, long service leave and rostered days off,
- \$8400 for a Wetherill Park driver unpaid annual leave,
- \$8100 for six Rhodes carers underpaid their minimum hourly rate and not paid for time worked,
- \$6000 for a Lidcombe bar attendant who did not receive meal breaks,
- \$5900 for a Greenacre driver not paid overtime,
- \$5700 for a Minchinbury driver unpaid annual leave and,
- \$5200 for a Minchinbury consultant not paid for time worked and annual leave.

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, horticulture, fast food and hospitality industries.

A series of Best Practice Guides have also been developed to assist employers make better use of the provisions of the Fair Work Act and better understand other aspects of workplace laws.

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.

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

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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.