

## Cairns insurance business operators fined almost \$55,000 over underpayments

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The Federal Magistrates Court's decision in this case was overturned on appeal. All of the Fair Work Ombudsman's allegations have been dismissed and all fines and back-payment Orders issued by the Court have been set aside.

17 March 2011

The operators of a Cairns insurance business have been fined a total of \$54,560 for underpaying two former employees.

The Federal Magistrates Court in Brisbane has also instructed that the underpaid workers be back-paid \$15,439 and \$6040 respectively.

The fines and back-payment order are the result of an investigation and prosecution by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Fair Work inspectors in Cairns discovered the underpayments when they investigated complaints from the employees.

The two life insurance advisers were underpaid when they were employed by Queensland Marine and General Insurance Management Pty Ltd to perform work for Queensland Marine and General Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd.

The Federal Magistrates Court this week penalised the two companies \$22,000 each over the underpayments.

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Brinsmead man Peter Ralph Martinuzzi - a director, manager and principal shareholder of the companies - was fined a further \$10,560 for his involvement.

The Court found that the employees had been underpaid wages, long service leave entitlements, leave loading and a tropical allowance payable to workers north of Rockhampton.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says the case serves to remind employers of their responsibility to ensure they pay employees their full entitlements.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a number of tools and useful resources on its website - [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) - to assist employees and employers to check minimum rates of pay.

Online resources also include pay-slip 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.

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## Contact us

Fair Work Online: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://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

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