

## Melbourne call centre operators face court over alleged underpayment of workers

31 March 2011

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a prosecution against the former operators of a Melbourne call centre for allegedly failing to pay five workers.

Facing court are Mark Vincent Gulifa and Doreen Mifsud, as well as the company they formerly jointly owned, Reacta Staffing Solutions Pty Ltd.

Through their company, Mr Gulifa and Ms Mifsud previously ran an outbound sales call centre in Ravenhall trading as 'Big Mouth Malone'.

Documents lodged in the Federal Magistrates Court in Melbourne allege Mr Gulifa and Ms Mifsud were centrally involved in their company breaching workplace laws by failing to pay five workers a total of \$3147 for work performed.

The employees allegedly each performed between 19 and 46 hours work at the call centre from August, 2009 to March, 2010 - but received no pay.

It is alleged the employees were entitled to receive individual amounts of \$913, \$725, \$715, \$417 and \$377.

Four of the allegedly underpaid employees were aged from 17 to 21 years old at the time.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says the employer's failure to rectify the alleged underpayments was a key factor in the decision to prosecute.

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Mr Gulifa and Ms Mifsud were involved in Reacta Staffing Solutions committing four breaches of workplace laws.

Mr Gulifa and Ms Mifsud face maximum potential penalties of \$6600 per breach and their company faces maximum potential penalties of \$33,000 per breach.

Employers or employees seeking assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 or visit [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) An interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

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Page reference No: 4834

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