

Campaign focuses on Queensland pharmacies

31 May 2011

The Fair Work Ombudsman is visiting hundreds of pharmacies throughout Queensland to ensure employers are meeting their workplace obligations.

Fair Work inspectors are randomly auditing 500 pharmacies across the state, sensitive to the special needs of businesses which suffered as a result of recent extreme weather.

They are being selected from:

- Brisbane and surrounding suburbs,
- the south east, including Toowoomba and Ipswich,
- the Gold Coast,
- the Sunshine Coast,
- Central Queensland, including Rockhampton and Gladstone,
- the Tropical North including Cairns,
- Townsville,
- Mackay,
- Bundaberg and the Coral Coast region,
- the Fraser Coast, including Hervey Bay, and
- the outback region, including Mount Isa.

Fair Work inspectors will also highlight the free tools and resources available to employers and employees on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website at www.fairwork.gov.au.

Pharmacies selected for audit will be scrutinised to ensure they have appropriate employment records and that payslips are being issued and are in order.

Fair Work inspectors will also monitor staff entitlements such as minimum hourly rates of pay, overtime, minimum hours of engagement and meal breaks.

Key stakeholders have been advised, including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (QLD branch) and the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association.

Fair Work Ombudsman Executive Director Michael Campbell says the campaign will give the Agency the opportunity to monitor compliance within the pharmaceutical industry in the long term if required.

Mr Campbell says that if inspectors find minor or inadvertent contraventions, the preference will be to educate the employer and assist them to rectify the issue.

"We acknowledge that inadvertent and accidental breaches of workplace laws do and will occur," he said.

"In cases where the contravention is deliberate or employers are not willing to resolve the issue voluntarily we may escalate the matter."

Employers or employees seeking assistance or further information can also contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-6pm weekdays. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

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.