

\$7.5 million back-pay for Vic employees

25 October 2011

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$7.573 million back-pay for 3556 workers in Victoria last financial year.

Of the 6103 complaints finalised in Victoria, 47 per cent were resolved voluntarily by the employer without the need for a formal investigation.

Nationally, the Fair Work Ombudsman recouped \$26.7 million for 17,360 underpaid employees in 2010-11.

Of this, \$7.9 million was reimbursed to 8215 workers under an informal, but supervised voluntary resolution process.

The Assisted Voluntary Resolution (AVR) team is now achieving resolution of about half its referrals within the first month.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson is keen to build on this success and is trialling the expanded use of mediation for low-level underpayment claims.

"Typically, about half the complainants who come to us are found to have been underpaid," Mr Wilson said.

About two-thirds of matters are settled for amounts of less than \$2000 and about three-quarters for amounts less than \$3000.

Mr Wilson says that when Fair Work inspectors identify a problem and contact a business, most employers check their records, realise a problem has occurred, and fix it immediately.


In September, the Fair Work Ombudsman launched PayCheck Plus, a new Online tool to assist employers keep up-to-date with their obligations.

PayCheck Plus calculates minimum rates of pay per hour, per shift or per week and takes account of payments for overtime, penalty rates and allowances.

Additionally, the Agency's National Employer Program is now working with and supporting 31 large national enterprises who together employ 209,000 staff.

The program involves working closely with participating businesses to provide education and advice and identify specific areas the employer can improve or strengthen its workplace policies or practices.

The Fair Work Infoline - 13 13 94 - is open from 8 am to 6 pm weekdays. The website - www.fairwork.gov.au - delivers a range of free, self-service tools and resources that can be accessed 24 hours a day.

Follow the Fair Work Ombudsman on [Twitter @fairwork_gov_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au)  (http://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au)

Media inquiries:

Ryan Pedler, Senior Adviser, Media & Stakeholder Relations

(03) 9954 2561, 0411 430 902

ryan.pedler@fwo.gov.au

Page reference No: 4568

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.