

Central Qld workers back-paid almost \$40,000

23 August 2012

Eleven workers in Central Queensland have been back-paid a total of \$39,100 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$7900 for six food and beverage attendants at a Bundaberg business.

The Fair Work Ombudsman randomly audited the business and found the workers were underpaid the minimum hourly rate between September, 2009 and July, 2011.

After a Fair Work inspector contacted the business and explained its obligations, the employees were reimbursed without the need for further action against the employer.

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$7400 for an apprentice at Emerald underpaid the minimum hourly rate,
- \$6800 for a hospitality supervisor at Rockhampton not paid for all hours worked and underpaid penalty rates,
- \$6300 for a Gladstone worker in the engineering industry not paid wages,
- \$5600 for a Bundaberg salesman underpaid commissions, and
- \$5100 for a Rockhampton truck driver underpaid long service leave entitlements.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says he understands that some businesses inadvertently breach workplace laws and inspectors always take a fair and flexible approach when they identify contraventions.

“When we find mistakes, we’re here to help and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily fix them,” Mr Wilson says.

“These Central Queensland businesses have now corrected the errors that led to the underpayments and put processes in place to ensure they will not happen again.”

Mr Wilson says the Fair Work Ombudsman’s Assisted Voluntary Resolution team is now achieving resolution of about half its referrals within the first month.

Employers or employees seeking information and advice should visit www.fairwork.gov.au or contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94.

The website has a number of tools and resources, including PayCheck Plus and an Award Finder, to assist business-owners to calculate the correct pay for their employees.

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.

An ‘Industries’ section on the website provides extra, specialised information for employers and employees in the retail, cleaning, clerical, road transport, hair and beauty, security, vehicle, horticulture, fast food and hospitality industries.

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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.