

Workers in Melbourne's West back-paid \$174k

4 December 2012

Workers in Melbourne's western suburbs have been back-paid a total of \$174,300 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$82,200 for a clerical worker at Kingsville.

The male employee in his 20s lodged a complaint with Fair Work Ombudsman after he was underpaid the minimum hourly rate and penalty rates over six years.

After a Fair Work inspector contacted the business and explained its obligations, the employee was reimbursed all money owed without the need for further action against the employer.

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$19,500 for a St Albans hairdresser underpaid wages from 2008 to 2011,
- \$12,000 for a manager at Williamstown underpaid redundancy entitlements on termination of employment,
- \$10,000 for a worker at Flemington underpaid wages and penalty rates between 2008 and 2011,
- \$9500 for a clerical worker at Melton underpaid penalty rates over a six-year period,
- \$9000 for a Werribee manager underpaid redundancy entitlements upon termination of employment,
- \$8200 for a tradesman at Deer Park underpaid wages, payment in lieu of notice and annual leave entitlements upon termination of employment,
- \$7900 for a Ravenhall manager underpaid long service leave entitlements,
- \$5900 for a real estate agent at Werribee underpaid wages and annual leave entitlements upon termination of employment,
- \$5100 for a Werribee salesperson underpaid annual leave entitlements upon termination of employment, and
- \$5000 for an apprentice at Hoppers Crossing underpaid wages and travel allowances.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says 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.

"When we find mistakes, we're here to assist and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily resolve issues," Mr Wilson says.

"The businesses involved have now corrected the errors that led to the underpayments and put processes in place to ensure they will not happen again."

Employers and employees seeking information and advice should visit www.fairwork.gov.au or call 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 rates of pay.

Media inquiries:

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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.