

New program offers opportunity for franchisors to engage with workplace regulator

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The Fair Work Ombudsman is hoping to engage some of Australia's largest franchisors with the launch of a new National Franchise Program (NFP).

Those volunteering to participate will receive free advice on how to best promote compliance with workplace laws across their network.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the program is a worthwhile opportunity for franchisors to enhance their brand by publicly supporting fair workplaces where workers' rights are valued.

"Franchisors can demonstrate a commitment to corporate responsibility and position their franchise outlets as employers of choice," Mr Wilson said.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has also launched a new webpage - www.fairwork.gov.au/franchising (www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/franchises/default) - with information and resources specifically tailored for the franchising sector.

Franchisors participating in the NFP will work with the Fair Work Ombudsman to discuss their franchise structure and needs and strengthen their existing policies and practices.

Advisors will help franchisors develop and implement programs to increase their franchisees' understanding of and compliance with workplace laws.

The NFP is an initiative of the Fair Work Ombudsman's National Employer Branch, which has been liaising with the Franchise Council of Australia in developing the program.

The National Employer Branch assists large national employers to ensure they meet their obligations under the Fair Work Act, National Employment Standards and other applicable industrial instruments.

In establishing the National Employer Branch, the Fair Work Ombudsman consulted with external stakeholders such as the Australian Industry Group, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Australian Council of Trade Unions to identify issues that large national employers experience in achieving compliance with workplace laws.

In 2010-11, the National Employer Branch supported 31 national enterprises that together employ more than 209,000 people across a range of industries.

Franchisors interested in participating in the NFP should visit www.fairwork.gov.au/franchising (www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/franchises/default) to register their interest before February 29.

Participation in the program is free.

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

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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.