

\$35,000 back-pay for North Queensland workers

9 January 2012

Several workers in North Queensland have been back-paid a total of \$35,000 following intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$11,500 for a supervisor.

The male employee, who worked for a business in Cairns, lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after he was not paid redundancy entitlements.

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

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$9200 for a Charters Towers maintenance manager, also underpaid redundancy entitlements,
- \$7800 for a sales manager in the Townsville area underpaid annual leave and long service leave entitlements on termination, and
- \$6500 for a chef in the Atherton Tablelands underpaid overtime penalty rates.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$6.082 million back-pay for 5142 underpaid workers in Queensland last financial year. Nationally, the Agency recouped \$26.7 million for 17,360 employees.

"It's a fact that some businesses inadvertently breach workplace laws. When we find mistakes, we're here to assist and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily fix them," says Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson.

"These North Queensland businesses have now corrected the errors that led to the underpayments and put processes in place to ensure it will not happen again."

Workers or employers seeking support should get in touch with the Fair Work Ombudsman via the website - www.fairwork.gov.au - or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94.

A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

Free documentation is available Online for employers to use when hiring, managing and dismissing staff, including letters of engagement and probation, timesheet and pay slip templates, leave application forms, a self-audit check list and workplace complaint form.

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.

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

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