

\$71,000 back-pay for Riverina workers

13 January 2012

Several workers in the Riverina area of NSW have been back-paid a total of \$71,400 following intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$38,200 for a salesman at Wagga.

The male employee - who had been employed for more than 20 years - lodged a complaint with Fair Work Ombudsman after he was not paid termination 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:

- \$12,500 for a security industry worker at Wagga not paid penalty rates or allowances,
- \$9700 for a Wagga administration worker not paid penalty rates or provided with meal breaks over a six year period,
- \$6000 for a Wyalong worker underpaid wages and termination entitlements, and
- \$5000 for a technician at Griffith not paid accrued annual leave entitlements.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$8.215 million in back-pay for 4182 underpaid workers in NSW 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 Riverina businesses have now corrected the errors that led to the underpayments and put processes in place to ensure they 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.

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, 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.