

NSW real estate agents focus of new campaign

24 January 2012

The Fair Work Ombudsman will check the books of up to 350 real estate agents over the next two months as part of its latest education and compliance campaign in NSW.

Fair Work inspectors have selected 120 real estate agents in metropolitan Sydney and 230 in regional NSW for audit.

Areas of Sydney included in the campaign are Blacktown, Bondi, Bronte, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Caringbah, Carlton, Castle Hill, the CBD, Chatswood, Hurstville, Ingleburn, Leichhardt, Liverpool, Manly, Maroubra, Miranda, North Sydney, Padstow, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie, Potts Point, Pyrmont, Randwick, Rockdale, Strathfield, Sutherland and Thornleigh.

Regional areas include Dubbo, Gosford, Newcastle, Lismore, Nelson Bay, Nowra, Orange, Terrigal, The Entrance and Wollongong.

Fair Work inspectors will check that agencies are paying employees correctly, with a particular focus on ensuring salespeople paid on a commission-only or part-commission basis are receiving their full entitlements.

Inspectors will also check that reception and administrative staff are being paid their full entitlements, including minimum pay rates and penalty rates.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the campaign is being conducted in response to concerns raised by key industry stakeholders that some employers are not complying with pay obligations to salespeople who receive commissions.

Educational information relating to workplace laws was promoted to real estate agencies throughout NSW in the second half of last year through workshops, a webinar and distribution of fact sheets.

"A key focus of the campaign is making employers aware of the free resources available to assist them to understand and comply with workplace laws," Mr Wilson said.

"The campaign will also benefit employers who are complying with workplace laws because our auditing of compliance with minimum pay rates will help to ensure businesses are competing on a level playing field."

The Fair Work Ombudsman's website - www.fairwork.gov.au - has a number of tools and resources, including PayCheck Plus and an Award Finder, to assist business-owners calculate the correct pay for their employees.

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.

Workers or employers seeking support should get in touch with the Fair Work Ombudsman via the website or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

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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

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