

Wimmera workers back-paid \$11,600

5 July 2012

Two workers in Victoria's Wimmera region have been back-paid a total of \$11,600 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$6300 for an agricultural manager at Ararat.

The male employee in his 50s - who was employed for nearly two years - lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after he was not paid for all hours worked, wages in lieu of notice or annual leave entitlements on termination.

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

In a similar case, an apprentice at Horsham has been back-paid \$5300 after she was underpaid the minimum hourly rate and penalty rates.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says it is always the preference of inspectors to work with employers to help them voluntarily rectify any non-compliance issues.

"When we identify a problem and contact a business, most employers check their records, realise a problem has occurred and fix it immediately," Mr Wilson says.

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

Between July 1, 2009 and March 31, 2012 the Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$78 million for 47,857 underpaid workers nationally.

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.

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 and a self-audit check list.

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

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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.