

Workers in Melbourne's North and North-West back-paid \$292,000

22 June 2012

Dozens of workers in Melbourne's North and North-Western suburbs have been back-paid a total of \$292,900 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$114,200 for an education professional at Thornbury.

The male employee in his 50s lodged a complaint with Fair Work Ombudsman after he was underpaid termination entitlements.

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

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$47,100 for 35 Brunswick factory workers underpaid the minimum hourly rate,
- \$36,900 for a Tullamarine maintenance worker underpaid the minimum hourly rate,
- \$22,700 for 15 retail workers at Watsonia underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates and allowances,
- \$21,200 for 94 construction industry workers at Deer Park underpaid travel allowances,
- \$8000 for a Preston retail worker not paid wages and underpaid annual leave and superannuation entitlements,
- \$6800 for a Kealba hospitality worker not paid for all hours worked and underpaid penalty rates,
- \$6700 for a Tullamarine clerk underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates, and annual leave and personal leave entitlements,
- \$6500 for a Deer Park apprentice underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates and annual leave entitlements,
- \$6100 for a Bundoora mechanic underpaid annual leave entitlements on termination,
- \$5800 for a Fitzroy North professional underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates and wages in lieu of notice,
- \$5800 for a Tullamarine storeman underpaid the minimum hourly rate and long service leave entitlements, and
- \$5100 for an Airport West professional underpaid wages in lieu of notice.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$7.573 million in back-pay for 3556 underpaid workers in Victoria last financial year.

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

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says that when Fair Work inspectors identify a problem and contact a business, most employers check their records, realise a problem has occurred and fix it immediately.

"When we find mistakes, we're here to assist and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily fix them," Mr Wilson says.

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

Mr Wilson says that the Fair Work Ombudsman's Assisted Voluntary Resolution team is now achieving resolution of about half its referrals within the first month.

The Fair Work Ombudsman provides a single point of contact for people working or running a business in Australia to get accurate and timely information about their workplace rights and obligations.

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.

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.

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.

Last financial year the PayCheck tool was accessed 489,866 times and Payroll Check recorded 83,275 visits.

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