

\$14,000 back-pay for East Gippsland workers

27 June 2012

Two workers in Victoria's East Gippsland region have been back-paid a total of \$14,400 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$7300 for a shop assistant at Sale.

The female employee in her 50s – who was employed between 2005 and 2011 – lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after she was underpaid annual leave 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.

In another case, a technician at Lakes Entrance has been back-paid \$7100 after he was underpaid the minimum hourly rate and penalty rates.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$7.573 million 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 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 resolve issues," Mr Wilson says.

"The East Gippsland businesses involved 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.

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.

The website has a number of tools and resources, including PayCheck Plus and an Award Finder, to help 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 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, horticulture, road transport, fast food, vehicle and hospitality industries.

Follow the Fair Work Ombudsman on [Twitter @fairwork_gov_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au)  (http://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au)  (<https://www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au>) .

Media inquiries:

Richard Honey, Adviser, Media & Stakeholder Relations,
(03) 9954 2716, 0457 924 146
richard.honey@fwo.gov.au

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.