

\$38,000 back-pay for Goulburn Valley workers

15 March 2012

Eleven workers throughout the Goulburn Valley in regional Victoria have been back-paid \$38,400 after recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$13,700 for a truck driver at Shepparton.

The male employee in his 40s lodged a complaint with Fair Work Ombudsman after he was not paid allowances between April, 2004 and August, 2011.

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:

- \$12,000 for a Shepparton manager underpaid termination entitlements,
- \$7300 for eight drivers in the Seymour area underpaid allowances and penalty rates, and
- \$5400 for a Shepparton maintenance worker underpaid the minimum hourly rate.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says it's a fact that some businesses inadvertently breach workplace laws.

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

Mr Wilson says 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. 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, hospitality and vehicle industries.

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 December 31, 2011 the Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$68.2 million for 41,224 underpaid workers nationally.

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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.