

## Aged care sector latest focus in Queensland

26 March 2012

The Fair Work Ombudsman is checking the books of up to 125 retirement villages and nursing homes as part of its latest education and compliance campaign in Queensland.

Fair Work inspectors have contacted employers throughout metropolitan and regional Queensland, including Brisbane, Bowen, Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Mackay, Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Port Douglas and Townsville.

Inspectors are checking that employers are paying staff their full entitlements, including minimum pay rates and penalty rates, and are complying with record-keeping obligations.

They are sensitive to the special needs of businesses affected by recent natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the campaign is in response to employee complaints and concerns raised by key stakeholders.

Mr Wilson says a key focus of the campaign is to raise employer awareness of the free resources available to assist them to understand and comply with workplace laws, including the Aged Care Award 2010.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's website - [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://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.

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.

"If inspectors find minor or inadvertent contraventions, our preference will be to educate the employer and assist them to voluntarily rectify the issue," 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," he said.

Workers or employers seeking support should visit the Fair Work Ombudsman's website or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94.

A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50 and information on the website is translated into 27 different languages.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$6.082 million back-pay for 5142 underpaid workers across all industries in Queensland last financial year - \$796,000 of it through targeted campaign activity.

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) .

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## Contact us

Fair Work Online: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://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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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.