

Ipswich workers back-paid \$34,000

3 May 2012

Four workers in the Ipswich region of south-east Queensland have been back-paid a total of \$34,700 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$11,500 for a finance industry employee at Ipswich.

The 41-year-old male - who was employed by the same company for six years - lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after he was not paid wages in lieu of notice when made redundant.

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

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$10,900 for an apprentice near Ipswich underpaid the minimum hourly rate,
- \$7000 for a driver at a Redbank Plains business underpaid the minimum hourly rate and penalty rates, and
- \$5300 for a salesman in West Ipswich underpaid the minimum hourly rate.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$6.082 million back-pay for 5142 underpaid workers in Queensland last financial year. Nationally, the Agency recouped \$26.7 million for 17,360 employees.

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.

"We're here to assist and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily resolve issues," Mr Wilson says. "The 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 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.

Its website has a number of tools and resources, including PayCheckPlus 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.

Resources also include payslip and record-keeping templates, a self-audit checklist, template letters and fact sheets on dozens of topics including leave, industrial action, public holidays, enterprise bargaining, gender pay equality and family-friendly workplaces.

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Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

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