

\$16,000 back-pay for Blue Mountains workers

25 May 2012

Two workers in the Blue Mountains region of NSW have been back-paid a total of \$16,600 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$11,100 for an office manager at Winmalee.

The long-term employee lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after she was underpaid wages in lieu of notice and redundancy entitlements.

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

In another local case, a Leura horticultural worker has been back-paid \$5500 after he was underpaid the minimum hourly rate over a seven-year period.

The Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$8.215 million back-pay for 4182 underpaid workers in NSW last financial year.

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

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says he understands that some businesses inadvertently breach workplace laws and Fair Work inspectors always take a fair and flexible approach when they identify contraventions.

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

"Both 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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.