

Pest control and gardening businesses the focus of new Queensland campaign

5 November 2012

The Fair Work Ombudsman will audit up to 220 businesses in Queensland's pest control and gardening services industries over the next four months as part of a new education and compliance campaign.

Audits will be conducted at locations including Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, the Gold Coast, Goondiwindi, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Mackay, Rockhampton, the Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Warwick.

Fair Work inspectors will check employers are paying workers in-line with minimum wage rates, penalty rates and overtime. Inspectors will also check employers are complying with record-keeping and pay slip obligations.

The campaign will focus on businesses providing pest inspections of buildings and pest management solutions, as well as businesses involved in landscaping and maintenance of gardens and parklands.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the industry has been earmarked for attention because it is a regular source of complaints. "This campaign is an ideal opportunity for employers to ensure they understand their obligations under workplace laws," he says.

In Queensland last financial year, Fair Work inspectors finalised audits of 1969 businesses as part of the Agency's targeted campaign activity, with campaigns focused on sectors including accommodation, aged care, real estate, food courts and clothing manufacturers.

Targeted campaign activity recouped \$2.2 million in outstanding entitlements for underpaid Queensland workers in 2011-12 - part of a total of \$8.6 million recovered for 4906 employees State-wide.

Throughout last financial year, more than 148,000 Queenslanders contacted the Fair Work Infoline seeking assistance.

Mr Wilson says the latest campaign aims to increase awareness of workplace laws, including Modern Awards and the National Employment Standards.

In situations where contraventions are identified, Fair Work inspectors will assist businesses to voluntarily rectify their issues and put processes in place to ensure ongoing compliance.

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.

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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

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