

## \$34,000 back-pay for Canberra workers

26 October 2012

A number of workers in Canberra have been back-paid a total of \$34,300 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$14,500 for a travel consultant who was underpaid the minimum hourly rate and penalty rates between 2009 and 2012.

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.

Other recent Canberra recoveries include:

- \$8100 for a security guard underpaid penalty rates between 2010 and 2012,
- \$6400 for a security guard not provided with the minimum hours of work as required by his agreement, and
- \$5300 for a retail worker underpaid the minimum hourly rate.

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.

“When we find mistakes, 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.”

Between July 1, 2009 and 30 September, 2012, the Fair Work Ombudsman recovered a total of \$100.2 million in back-pay for more than 56,000 unpaid workers in Australia. Since March, 2006, the Fair Work Ombudsman and its predecessor agencies have recouped a total of \$185.5 million for 124,000 workers.

Employers and employees seeking information and advice should visit [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) or call the Infoline on 13 13 94 from 8am-6pm weekdays.

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.

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.

An ‘Industries’ section on the website provides extra, specialised information for employers and employees in the retail, cleaning, clerical, hair and beauty, security, vehicle, horticulture, fast food and hospitality industries.

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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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