

Almost \$60k back-pay for Moreton Bay workers

5 September 2012

Seven workers in the Moreton Bay region of Queensland have been back-paid a total of \$58,400 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The largest recovery was \$10,700 for a shop assistant at Redcliffe.

The female employee in her 40s lodged a complaint with the Fair Work Ombudsman after she was underpaid the minimum hourly rate for two years between 2010 and 2012.

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

Other recent recoveries include:

- \$10,000 for a Clontarf apprentice underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates, allowances and annual leave entitlements,
- \$9600 for a Caboolture office manager not paid redundancy entitlements on termination of her employment,
- \$9000 for a Lawnton administration worker underpaid annual leave entitlements,
- \$7700 for a Brendale labourer underpaid redundancy entitlements on termination of employment,
- \$6400 for a tradesman near Caboolture not paid redundancy entitlements on termination of employment,
- \$5000 for a labourer at Caboolture underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates and allowances,

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says that 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 fix them,” 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.

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.

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.

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.

Workers and employers can also sign up to receive the Fair Work Ombudsman’s eNewsletter at www.fairwork.gov.au/enewsletter (www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/newsletter/default) .

Media inquiries:

Penny Rowe, Media & Stakeholder Relations

0457 924 146

Penelope.Rowe@fwo.gov.au

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.