

Outback Queensland workers back-paid \$47,000

10 September 2012

Workers in Outback Queensland have been back-paid \$47,600 following recent intervention by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The biggest underpayment was \$35,000 for three hospitality workers at a Goondiwindi business.

The employees lodged complaints with the Fair Work Ombudsman after they were underpaid their redundancy entitlements, wages in lieu of notice on termination and annual leave entitlements.

The employees were underpaid \$22,800, \$8500 and \$3700 respectively.

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

In another case, two foreign backpackers working as farmhands in the St George area have been back-paid \$12,600 after they were underpaid the minimum hourly rate, penalty rates and annual leave entitlements.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says when Fair Work inspectors identify an issue 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 help and give practical advice to employers on how to voluntarily fix them,” Mr Wilson says.

“These Queensland business have now corrected the errors that led to the underpayments and put processes in place to ensure they will not happen again.”

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.

An ‘Industries’ section on the website provides extra, specialised information for employers and employees in the hospitality and horticulture 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.