

Limestone Coast tourism campaign results

24 September 2012

The Fair Work Ombudsman today released the findings of a campaign focussing on tourism businesses in South Australia's Limestone Coast region.

Fair Work inspectors randomly selected businesses in Millicent, Robe and Beachport earlier this year for audit and checked their books to ensure they were paying employees correctly and complying with pay slip and record-keeping obligations.

Of the 53 audits complete, 37 employers (70 per cent) were found to be compliant with workplace laws, while 16 (30 per cent) were found to be in contravention.

Of those in contravention, three employers underpaid 13 employees a total of \$2323, while 13 employers were found to have record keeping and/or pay slip breaches.

A further two audits at Millicent are ongoing and have already resulted in \$4474 being recovered for 29 employees.

Fair Work inspectors educated non-compliant employers on their obligations under workplace laws and assisted them to voluntarily rectify their issues and back-pay workers.

The campaign focussed on businesses engaging short-term employees during peak tourism periods, such as cafes, restaurants, take-away outlets and accommodation providers.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the campaign aimed to ensure that the businesses understood their obligations under workplace laws and that the short-term employees, including many young workers, were receiving their full lawful entitlements.

"Young workers are often not fully aware of their workplace rights and can be reluctant to complain, so it is important we are proactive about ensuring they are being treated fairly at work," Mr Wilson said.

"The campaign also helped to increase employers' awareness of workplace laws and the range of tools and resources available on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website to assist them to comply with workplace laws."

The latest audits were a follow-up to a 2009 campaign, in which 76 Limestone Coast business were audited and 25 (35 per cent) were found to be in contravention, including six that had underpaid 144 workers a total of \$55,277.

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 by calling 13 14 50.

An 'Industries' section on the website provides extra, specialised information for employers and employees several industries, including retail, fast food and hospitality.

- [South east tourism campaign report \(PDF 666.1KB\) \(www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/714/South-east-tourism-campaign-report.pdf.aspx\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/714/South-east-tourism-campaign-report.pdf.aspx)
- [South east tourism campaign report \(RTF 177.8KB\) \(www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/714/South-east-tourism-campaign-report.rtf.aspx\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/714/South-east-tourism-campaign-report.rtf.aspx)

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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.