

Gold Coast real estate company allegedly underpaid employees more than \$53,000

18 April 2013

Note: Reference to prosecution in this media release is a general reference to the FWO commencing proceedings for the imposition of civil penalties and should not be taken to be a reference to criminal proceedings.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a prosecution against a Gold Coast real estate company, alleging it underpaid three salespeople a total of more than \$53,000.

Facing court is Total Project Marketing Pty Ltd, which is based at Ashmore.

Also facing Court is company owner-manager Adrian Keith Parsons, and his wife Karen Nicole Parsons, the company's office manager.

It is alleged the company underpaid three real estate salespeople a total of \$53,222 between October, 2009 and February, 2011.

It is alleged the majority of the underpayments are the result of the employees being significantly underpaid the sales commissions they were entitled to.

The employees were allegedly also underpaid their minimum weekly wages and annual leave entitlements.

It is alleged the employees were underpaid individual amounts of \$32,951, \$16,551 and \$3720.

Fair Work inspectors discovered the alleged breaches when they investigated complaints lodged by the employees.

Fair Work Ombudsman Group Manager Michael Campbell says the significant amount involved and the failure to rectify the alleged underpayments were key factors in the decision to prosecute.

Mr and Mrs Parsons were allegedly involved in Total Project Marketing committing several breaches of workplace laws.

Mr and Mrs Parsons faces penalties of up to \$6600 per breach and the company faces penalties of up to \$33,000 per breach.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is also seeking a Court Order for back-payment of the employees.

A directions hearing is listed in the Federal Circuit Court in Brisbane on May 6.

Employers or employees seeking assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 or visit www.fairwork.gov.au. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

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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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