

Pharmacy education and compliance campaign

13 February 2013

This month the Fair Work Ombudsman commences a national education and compliance campaign focusing on the pharmacy industry.

The campaign aims to educate pharmacy employers and workers in the community pharmacy industry covered by the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010. It will promote and assess compliance with the award, the Fair Work Act 2009, Fair Work Regulations 2009 and the National Employment Standards in the sector.

As part of the campaign, a Pharmacy Industry Handbook has been produced and endorsed by both the Ombudsman's office, and the Guild. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of employers in the industry. It can be viewed on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website at www.fairwork.gov.au/pharmacy or on the Guild website at www.guild.org.au  (<http://www.guild.org.au/>).

On Wednesday 6 March at 6pm the FWO will be hosting a webinar for pharmacy employers. Register now to attend and find out more about the campaign, the Pharmacy Industry Award and online self-help tools.

This webinar will provide employers with:

- An overview of the campaign and what to expect if a business is selected for an audit
- An overview of the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010 to help employers understand their obligations
- A walk through the resources and tools available on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website to help employers comply.

The Executive Director of the Pharmacy Guild, David Quilty, said: "The Ombudsman's office informed the Guild last year that it would be conducting an audit, which is scheduled for April.

"Since then we have been working closely with the Ombudsman's office and, most importantly, with our members to ensure that community pharmacy employers are fully aware of their workplace obligations and have checked their compliance with the PIA and the Fair Work Act.

"I am confident that the vast majority of employers act in good faith to ensure they are doing the right thing. However now is the time to make sure as an employer that you double-check and, as a matter of urgency, address any areas where you may be non-compliant, even if they are inadvertent or minor," Mr Quilty said.

The Guild welcomes the approach that the Ombudsman's office is taking to this audit, whereby it is first reminding pharmacy employers of their obligations, before undertaking the audit in April.

"For those who haven't already done so, now is the time to make doubly sure that you are paying the correct entitlements to your staff and that all your paperwork and information provision requirements are in order," Mr Quilty said.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson said: "My Agency is committed to working with employer groups such as the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to ensure employers have access to the information and resources they need to understand and comply with workplace relations laws.

"By publishing this handbook in conjunction with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, we are providing a large group of employers in the pharmacy industry with a user-friendly, practical resource that will help to make the process of complying with workplace laws as efficient as possible.

"The Fair Work Ombudsman welcomes the opportunity to work with employer groups to increase their members' awareness and understanding of workplace laws."

The Fair Work Ombudsman is an Australian government agency responsible for ensuring that workers and employers understand and comply with their obligations under Commonwealth workplace laws and for protecting the workplace rights of both workers and employers.

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Page reference No: 3395

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