

Court action over alleged \$62,000 underpayment of Northern NSW security guards

7 March 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 Northern NSW security company, alleging it underpaid seven security guards a total of more than \$62,000.

Facing court is Alarcop Pty Ltd - which trades as Summerland Security and is based at Goonellabah, near Lismore - as well as company director and majority-owner Raymond Eric Bryant.

It is alleged the company underpaid seven security guards a total of \$62,616 between December, 2006 and February, 2011.

It is alleged the employees were underpaid their minimum hourly rates, weekend penalty rates, overtime rates and an allowance payable when called back into work after having left for the day.

One employee was allegedly also underpaid an allowance payable for being required to carry a gun.

It is alleged the employees were underpaid amounts ranging from \$2401 to \$15,770.

Fair Work Inspectors discovered the alleged breaches when they investigated complaints lodged by workers. Alarcop subsequently commenced back-paying employees.

Fair Work Ombudsman, Nicholas Wilson, said the significant amount involved and the failure to fully rectify the alleged underpayments promptly were key factors in the decision to prosecute.

Mr Bryant was allegedly involved in Alarcop committing several breaches of workplace laws. Mr Bryant faces penalties of up to \$6600 per breach and the company faces penalties of up to \$33,000 per breach.

The Fair Work Ombudsman will also seek a Court Order for any outstanding wages owed. A directions hearing is scheduled in the Federal Magistrates Court in Sydney on April 8.

Any workers who believe they have been underpaid by Alarcop or any other employer should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 for advice and assistance. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

Information to assist employers and workers is also available at www.fairwork.gov.au.

Media inquiries:

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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.