

## Fair Work Ombudsman to visit Thursday Island and the Northern Peninsula Area next week

5 November 2013

The Fair Work Ombudsman will visit Thursday Island and the Northern Peninsula Area, in Queensland, next week to help employers and workers learn more about their workplace rights and responsibilities.

Fair Work Inspectors will visit a random selection of businesses on Thursday Island and the Northern Peninsula Area between Monday, 11 November, and Thursday, 14 November, to discuss steps they can take to ensure they are complying with workplace laws.

They will provide advice about minimum pay rates and conditions, and provide fact sheets and templates designed to help employers meet their pay and record-keeping obligations.

Inspectors will also conduct some spot-checks of time-and-wages records and in any cases of non-compliance identified, their preference will be to assist employers to voluntarily rectify any issues.

In addition, Inspectors will be available to answer questions from employers and employees about pay, conditions and other aspects of workplace laws on Monday, 11 November, between 1pm and 4.30pm and again on Wednesday, 13 November, between 9am and 12.30pm at Thursday Island Centrelink, on the corner of Hastings Street and Victoria Parade.

Employees and employers can drop in during these hours. Appointments are not required.

Information on a range of topics including wages, flexible work arrangements, leave entitlements, workplace discrimination, hours of work and other entitlements will be available.

Fair Work Inspector, Pixie Nee, says the visits aim to raise awareness among local employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities under national workplace laws.

"A big part of the Fair Work Ombudsman's role is to help build knowledge in the community about workplace laws and to help create fairer workplaces," Ms Nee said.

"Opportunities like this where we can speak directly to employers and employees are an important way to help achieve that and improve community understanding. By proactively visiting businesses we can ensure that employers have all the information they need to comply with minimum pay rates, conditions and their record-keeping obligations."

The Fair Work Ombudsman's website - [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) - contains a range of tools and resources to help employers and workers understand and comply with workplace laws.

Online tools include an Award Finder and PayCheck Plus to help employers and workers determine the correct pay rates, classifications and minimum entitlements for their industry.

Small businesses without the benefit of in-house advice such as human resources staff can also ensure they are better equipped when hiring, managing and dismissing workers by using the range of free templates available online.

Employers and employees seeking further information and advice can call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

Media inquiries:

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## Contact us

Fair Work Online: [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://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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