

Campaign focus on clothing outworkers

24 March 2015

Vulnerable migrant and overseas workers who make clothes from their homes are the focus of a new two-year education and compliance campaign by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The regulator will write to 1000 clothing retailers, wholesalers, distributors and contractors over the coming weeks to raise awareness about their obligations to clothing outworkers under workplace laws.

The businesses will be provided with information packs containing facts sheets and templates on topics such as the modern awards that apply to their industry, working with clothing outworkers, keeping employment records and issuing pay slips.

Fair Work inspectors will make face-to-face visits to a number of businesses in attempt to gain insights into issues within the industry and barriers to non-compliance.

Information will also be provided to local councils, migrant resource centres, ethnic support groups and other relevant community organisations.

A number of employer groups and unions have also agreed to assist in promoting the Fair Work Ombudsman's campaign.

The campaign will include radio and newspaper advertising and social media activities.

Information has also been translated in Chinese and Vietnamese at www.fairwork.gov.au/clothing (www.fairwork.gov.au/clothing) .

As part of the campaign, a number of businesses will be audited later this year.

“We are conscious that overseas and migrant workers can be vulnerable because they are often not fully aware of their rights and reluctant to complain, so it's important we are proactive about ensuring they are receiving their full entitlements,” says Fair Work Ombudsman Natalie James.

Ms James says the Fair Work Ombudsman is working hard to build a culture of compliance with workplace laws to ensure an even playing field for all businesses.

Employers or employees seeking advice can visit www.fairwork.gov.au or contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94.

A free interpreter service is also available on 13 14 50.

The Fair Work Ombudsman supports compliant, productive and inclusive Australian workplaces.

Follow Fair Work Ombudsman Natalie James on Twitter [@NatJamesFWO](https://twitter.com/NatJamesFWO)  (<http://twitter.com/NatJamesFWO>) , the Fair Work Ombudsman [@fairwork_gov_au](https://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au)  (http://twitter.com/fairwork_gov_au) or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au  (<http://www.facebook.com/fairwork.gov.au>) .

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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.