

Search for unpaid wages

If you need help sorting out a workplace wages issue, check [Help resolving workplace issues \(www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/how-we-help-you/help-resolving-workplace-issues/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/how-we-help-you/help-resolving-workplace-issues/default) .

Why we collect unpaid wages for employees

Sometimes an employer owes wages to an employee who has left their business and can't be contacted.

An employer might have to pay outstanding wages because:

- we have contacted the employer as part of a campaign and:
 - completed an audit or helped them to do an audit of their records
 - found that one or more former employees have been underpaid
- during an investigation we have found an underpayment.

What happens to the wages after we collect them

We hold the wages on behalf of the employee. When the employee is found and identified, we pay the wages to the employee.


Find out if we are holding wages for an employee

You might need to do a few separate searches if:

- the employee has had more than 1 employer
- the employee has changed their name since they started working.

If your search shows we might be holding unpaid wages for an employee, the employee should [Contact us \(www.fairwork.gov.au/contact-us\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/contact-us) to claim the wages as soon as possible.

All personal information is collected and handled in line with our [Privacy policy \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Website-information/privacy\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Website-information/privacy) .

Source reference: [Fair Work Act 2009 s.559](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2009A00028)  (<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2009A00028>)

What to do next

- [Download the Unclaimed monies fact sheet \(DOCX 26.5KB\) \(www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/723/unclaimed-monies-fact-sheet.docx.aspx\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/723/unclaimed-monies-fact-sheet.docx.aspx) ([PDF 141KB\) \(www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/723/unclaimed-monies-fact-sheet.pdf.aspx\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/723/unclaimed-monies-fact-sheet.pdf.aspx)
- Visit the [ATO website !\[\]\(f9e62ae797645c5367e33d9390832789_img.jpg\) \(http://www.ato.gov.au/Calculators-and-tools/SuperSeeker/\)](http://www.ato.gov.au/Calculators-and-tools/SuperSeeker/) to find lost superannuation

Help for small business

- Find tools, resources and information you might need on our [Small business page \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Find-help-for/Small-business/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Find-help-for/Small-business/default) .

You might also be interested in

- [Campaigns \(www.fairwork.gov.au/How-we-will-help/Helping-the-community/Campaigns/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/How-we-will-help/Helping-the-community/Campaigns/default)
- [Employee entitlements \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Employee-entitlements/default)
- [Leave \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Leave/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Leave/default)
- [Pay \(www.fairwork.gov.au/Pay/default\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/Pay/default)

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.