



News Release - SafeWork SA

Thursday 5 October 2006

Initiative on state minimum wage compliance

As part of its role in promoting fairness and equity at work, SafeWork SA has launched a project to ensure that those employed under South Australia's Industrial Relations system receive the appropriate minimum wage and other conditions of employment.

SafeWork SA will concentrate on three industries in particular where Award or Enterprise Bargaining Agreement protection is lacking, namely:

- Aquaculture,
- Fruit picking,
- Trolley collecting.

Letters are being sent to employer associations in these sectors advising them of the project, and what the minimum requirements are under the *Fair Work Act 1994*.

As the program unfolds, SafeWork SA's Industrial Relations inspectors will provide employers and employees with advice to help them comply, as well as distributing a range of information publications.

In March 2006, the SA Industrial Relations Commission established a minimum adult wage of \$484.40 per week, which became effective on 17 April 2006.

Minimum rates for casuals and apprentices and trainees have also been established.

This covers employees who do not enjoy the protection of an EBA or established Award, estimated to be up to 30% of the state's workforce.

SafeWork SA inspectors will help ensure that employers in these industries are aware of, and comply with their obligations concerning the minimum wage.

They will also advise employers about other minimum standards under the *Fair Work Act*, such as annual leave and sick leave, as well as proper record keeping.

Occupational health, safety and welfare issues such as sun protection and hot weather policies, will also be covered.

The project, which is set to run until June 2007, is timed to allow for minimum disruption to the activities of these industry groups.

[more]



While inspectors will concentrate their efforts in these three particular sectors, SafeWork SA will continue to investigate complaints from employees who traditionally have not had an enforceable minimum wage.

SafeWork SA encourages employers to begin making provisions now to ensure compliance, before a complaint is received.

*For answers and advice on workplace pay and conditions and the relevant laws, SafeWork SA operates a telephone Help Centre on **1 300 365 255**.*

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