



Media Release - SafeWork SA

Tuesday 14 August 2007

FEDERAL OMBUDSMAN RECEIVES SAFEWORK SA FINDINGS ON TROLLEY COLLECTING INDUSTRY

South Australia's government industrial relations agency, SafeWork SA, has been actively auditing the trolley-collecting industry in a parallel initiative to that recently announced by the Federal Workplace Ombudsman.

The agency's findings on six companies have been passed on to the Federal Workplace Ombudsman for further action.

In June 2007, SafeWork SA began examining the trolley-collecting industry to determine the extent of compliance with Long Service Leave provisions. These are administered under the South Australian *Long Service Leave Act 1987*.

In the course of that work, SafeWork SA industrial relations inspectors interviewed employers and employees of several companies, and found many workers being paid under the minimum federal rate for casuals of \$16.16 per hour.

While SafeWork SA's inspectors cannot directly act in relation to underpayment of wages in workplaces that are under the Federal system, they can pass on any information uncovered to the Federal Workplace Ombudsman.

Accordingly as a result of its audit, SafeWork SA has passed on details to the Ombudsman's office, informing it of underpayments by six South Australian trolley-collecting firms.

"SafeWork SA is deeply concerned by what has been uncovered," says Acting Executive Director, Peter Hampton.

"We note the Federal Workplace Ombudsman's recent announcement of prosecutions in the trolley-collecting industry and welcome any initiative that will ensure fair pay and conditions and adherence to the law, be it state or federal.

"SafeWork SA has an active and extensive industrial relations program that has examined pay and conditions in a number of industries where protections are minimal," Mr. Hampton says.

"If anyone has a query about their pay and conditions, we urge them to ring our telephone Help and Early Intervention Centre on 1300 365 255.

"Even if it is a Federal matter, our expert staff will be able to refer them to the right source of information."