

Underpayment of food and beverage workers

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) today congratulated the Fair Work Ombudsman for an audit of food and beverage premises which resulted in the recovery of \$472,000 in underpayments for 616 workers.

The FWO audit of popular 'cheap eat' destinations in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane found that 72 per cent of the 243 businesses visited were in breach of workplace laws.

The Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said: "FECCA applauds the continuing vigilance of the Fair Work Ombudsman on this issue.

"The reality is that a great number of workers in these businesses are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In too many cases they are being exploited by operators in the food and beverage industry.

"We call on employers to do the right thing and abide by workplace laws. And we urge workers in these businesses to learn about their legal entitlements to payment and conditions," Ms Patetsos said.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's *Food Precincts Activities Report* can be found [here](#).

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of our constituency to government, business and the broader community.

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