

Apprentice chefs allegedly underpaid \$20,000 – delicatessen to face Court action

The Fair Work Ombudsman will prosecute the operators of a Queensland delicatessen for allegedly underpaying two young apprentice chefs.

The male apprentices, in their 20s, were allegedly underpaid \$15,007 and \$5471 respectively when they worked at the “Fed Up Deli” at the corner of Thorn and Limestone streets, **Ipswich**.

Facing court is the owner-operator, Christopher Meade Jones, and his private company Fed Up Deli & Catering Pty Ltd.

Documents lodged in the Federal Magistrates Court in Brisbane allege the two full-time apprentice chefs were underpaid between October, 2008 and March, 2010.

They were allegedly underpaid wages during their employment and were not paid accrued annual leave entitlements after they resigned last year.

Fair Work inspectors discovered the alleged underpayments when they investigated complaints from the two.

Court documents also allege Fed Up Deli & Catering failed to keep proper employment records.

A decision to litigate was made because of the employer’s failure to rectify the alleged underpayments.

Fed Up Deli & Catering faces a maximum potential penalty of \$33,000 per breach and Mr Jones a maximum penalty of \$6600 per breach.

A directions hearing is listed for October 24.