

## **Pizza shop operator faces court for allegedly paying employees just \$9 per hour**

The Fair Work Ombudsman will prosecute the operators of an Eagle Boys pizza outlet in regional NSW for allegedly paying its employees just \$9 an hour.

Facing court is Stacborn Pty Ltd, which runs an Eagle Boys franchise at **Cessnock**.

Court documents allege the company underpaid 17 delivery drivers and two shop assistants a total of \$48,905 between October, 2008 and June, 2010.

Five of the staff were under 18 at the time.

The delivery drivers were allegedly paid a flat rate of just \$9 an hour, but the Fair Work Ombudsman says the juniors should have been paid at least \$12 and the adult workers between \$14 and \$18.

A male employee in his 20s was allegedly underpaid \$11,478.

Fair Work inspectors discovered the alleged underpayments when they investigated a complaint lodged by one of the employees. Only a small portion of the total outstanding amount has been back-paid.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says a decision was made to take legal action because the workers were largely young and vulnerable and because of the significant amount involved.

The Fair Work Ombudsman alleges Stacborn Pty Ltd committed several breaches of workplace laws.

The maximum potential penalty per breach is \$33,000.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is also seeking a Court Order for back-payment of the money allegedly still owed to the workers.