

Workcover Conviction

A Fitzroy company was convicted of five offences under the Accident Compensation Act in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Thursday 7 April.

The Court heard that after suffering a hernia injury a worker completed a WorkCover claim form which the company director accepted and threw in the rubbish bin.

The court was told the worker then lodged the claim directly with the VWA and the claim was accepted. The worker also gave evidence that he had not had any communication from the company owner in relation to a return to work plan.

In convicting and fining the company \$3,856, Magistrate Lesley Fleming said it was proper to impose a heavy penalty given the conduct of the director, in relation to his dereliction of his duties to attend to his WorkCover requirements and the needs of his employees.

The company was found guilty of refusing to accept an injured worker's claim for compensation, failing to submit a claim for compensation, failing to make payments to the injured worker and failing to prepare a return to work plan or nominate a return to work coordinator.

WorkCover's Executive Director - Rehabilitation and Compensation, Michael Ulbrick, said this type of offence strikes at the integrity of the WorkCover scheme.

"In this case the worker clearly suffered as a result of the employer's actions. This is an important result for the protection of employees' rights and demonstrates that employers have a legal and moral obligation to assist injured workers get back to health and work."

"Experience shows that the best way to keep productivity up and workplace injury insurance costs down is to return injured workers to work safely and as soon as possible."

Return to work means helping injured workers get back to work or stay at work while they recover from an injury. This may involve providing work that won't aggravate the injury until they can return to their regular job.

Employment



Tin Chen, new Master Grocers Board Member will regularly include information for our Chinese retailers. This valuable service will greatly improve communications between many retailers where English is their second language.



如果你们阅读过食品商业总会 (Master Grocer) 三月份的月刊的话, 你们

就会对我有所认识。我的中文名叫陈华国(英文名叫Tim)。1989年从中国福建来, 除了会讲英语和国语外, 还能讲闽南话(类似潮州话或台湾话)。在经营超市之前, 曾在中国和澳大利亚从事十四年的医学检验, 也配合家庭成员经营了两个奶吧。2001年初接管现在这个IGA超市。

由于从是食品行业的雇主(会员)中来自非英语背景的人士越来越多, 食品商业总会非常重视这个变化。为了更好地为这些会员提供服务, 他们提选我出任董事会成员。希望通过我进一步地了解这些会员(主要来自于亚洲各国, 尤其是中国)在商店管理过程中的需要和对总商会在运作过程中的意见, 然后综合后向他们提出工作建议, 以便总商会能更好地从各方面协助这些会员管好商店, 推动会员们按照政府的法律和法规要求完善商店的管理制度, 同时促进会员们之间的联系。

在今后一段时间里, 我将着重做以下几方面的工作: 1, 陆续地在总商会的期刊上撰写简要文章, 评注, 用中文的行式为非英语背景的会员提供法律及行业方面的信息。对会员普遍关心的问题也将在杂志上解答或讨论。2, 接受会员的咨询, 可能的话进行商店的访问, 了解会员的需要, 然后综合大家的意见向总商会提出工作建议。3, 为语言上或经营上有困难的店主提供直接帮助, 帮助他们完善各种管理制度及必要的培训以符合政府在食品经营方面的法律和法规的要求。这些法规主要有食品卫生法, 香烟和酒类销售法和劳工安全法。政府法律部门对违反这些法规或没有符合法规要求的店主的惩罚是很严重的。4, 争取在总商会, IGA及Foodwork的支持下不定期地召集非英语背景的会员聚会, 促进会员和总商会, IGA及Foodwork之间的沟通, 加强会员之间经商经验的交流, 逐步建立一个联谊网络。

欢迎大家来电联系或咨询。我的电话是97725098或0403100097。

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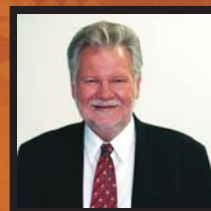
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