

NEW AWARD AND WAGE RATES FOR STABLE EMPLOYEES

By Pat Duff – President, ATA Queensland

Trainers should be aware that the new Horse and Greyhound Training Award (the Modern Award) came into effect on January 1, 2010. A copy of the new award and wage rates has been posted to all ATA members.

The Modern Award is the new award that will apply to trainers and their employees, an Australian Government initiative to review and rationalise awards to create a Modern Award system.

As part of this process, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission was required to review Pre-Reform Awards and Notional Agreements Preserving State Awards applying to particular industries and occupations, and replace those earlier awards with Modern Awards.

The ordinary hours of work for employees covered by the Modern Award is 38 hours per week, to be worked within rostered hours in five full days, or four full days and two half days, Monday to Saturday.

The minimum weekly wages payable to employees is set out in Clause 13 of the Modern Award, which has been sent out to all members by the ATA. For some trainers, the minimum weekly wages specified in the Modern Award may be slightly higher than those currently paid.

Schedule A of the Modern Award contains transitional provisions in respect of the amount of wages payable to employees if employees have previously been paid pursuant to a "transitional minimum wage instrument and/or an award based transitional instrument".

Rates of pay calculated pursuant to Schedule A of the Modern Award are specific to each trainer. It will not apply to many trainers. Trainers therefore should first seek advice if they wish to pay wages calculated in accordance with Schedule A.

The application of the provisions in Schedule A may result in trainers paying an amount of wages slightly less than the minimum weekly wage specified in Clause 13 of the Modern Award, but trainers should be aware of ongoing obligations to adjust those weekly wages on a yearly basis until 2013.

Any trainers seeking clarification of any aspects of the new Horse and Greyhound Training Award are advised to contact the ATA industrial relations manager Wayne Lee at the ATA head office on (03) 9372 1688. <



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