

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS UPDATE – AUGUST 2005

DECLARATION OF GENERAL RULING QUEENSLAND STATE WAGE CASE 2005

The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) has followed the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) safety net decision by applying the \$17.00 per week increase to all State Awards by general ruling as of **1 September 2005**. In addition to this amendment, existing allowances in all Queensland awards and service increments are to be increased by 3%.

The decision of the QIRC also means an increase in the minimum weekly wage for full-time adult employees in Queensland to \$484.40 from the previous \$467.40. It is important to note that if an award or agreement wage rate is less than the adult minimum wage, the minimum wage rate must be paid. Juniors receive a percentage of the adult minimum wage rate according to their age.

A separate set of minimum rates apply to those employees undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship under the *Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000 (Qld)*.

Employers should be aware that this General Ruling does not apply to federal certified agreements, State certified agreements or Australian Workplace Agreements, unless that agreement specifies that it applies.

Further information

For further information on how the Declaration of General Ruling should be applied to your employees, please contact Emma Howse at emma@mjsp.com.au or on (07) 3839 1233.