

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing in support of the improved union rights of entry and access to employee records in the Fair Work Bill 2008.

My wife was underpaid \$4000 in 2007. It was only through access to employee records that this underpayment was able to be proved and recovered. In the course of the investigation into my wife's underpayment, many more underpayments were discovered. In total, the employer had withheld over \$31,000 in wages and entitlements.

The name of the employer was Golden Maple Pty Ltd trading as Shimizu restaurants. The case was widely publicised when the Workplace Ombudsman announced its decision to prosecute.

I fear there may be many more employers who are underpaying their workers. It is important for these workers to have an advocate who can recover stolen wages on their behalf. The government will be the first to acknowledge that it doesn't have the resources to investigate all alleged breaches. That is why unions also need the power to investigate on behalf of their members and potential members.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Falconer