

March 2010

OTEK[®] Up2date

OTEK Up2date is from the team at Ozone Technologies. We thought it would be useful to share some of the issues we are facing as a business thinking that they are probably just as relevant for you. We also thought you might be interested to read about other businesses in your industry and the challenges they face.

FAIR WORK IN THE LAUNDRY INDUSTRY

Fewer than half of Australia's small businesses are adequately prepared to deal with the new workplace laws that took effect from 1 January 2010.

Not wanting to scare you all if this rings true but I thought it was worth sharing. If you are up to speed with these new Employment Standards then you are definitely a step ahead of the game. If you are in the majority who are yet to get across what they are and what they mean for your business then hopefully this will spur you on to get organised.

These laws are essentially designed to give the employee more flexibility in their working hours in particular to accommodate caring for children and the family. It's important that businesses understand the potential impact on their workforce and how they might need to arrange staff cover differently moving forward. For example, if one of

your staff members opted to take 24 months maternity leave instead of the previous 12 month allowance, what provisions would you need to make?

For a start, there are the 10 minimum workplace entitlements in the new National Employment Standards (NES) you need to be familiar with and have a course

of action to tackle each one. But make sure you go to www.fairwork.gov.au for all the information and invest some time in getting sorted – you'll feel better for it and there won't be any nasty surprises you weren't prepared for.

David Skry

Managing Director

Ozone Technologies

10-minimum workplace entitlements

1. A maximum standard working week of 38 hours for full-time employees, plus 'reasonable' additional hours.
2. A right to request flexible working arrangements to care for a child under school age, or a child (under 18) with a disability.
3. Parental and adoption leave of 12 months (unpaid), with a right to request an additional 12 months.
4. Four weeks paid annual leave each year (pro rata).
5. Ten days paid personal/carer's leave each year (pro rata), two days paid compassionate leave for each permissible occasion, and two days unpaid carer's leave for each permissible occasion.
6. Community service leave for jury service or activities dealing with certain emergencies or natural disasters. This leave is unpaid except for jury service.
7. Long service leave.
8. Public holidays and the entitlement to be paid for ordinary hours on those days.
9. Notice of termination and redundancy pay.
10. The right for new employees to receive the Fair Work Information Statement.

Hunter Laundry

Martin McMurray is not someone who puts up with below par performance.

He proved this when he established Hunter Laundry as a direct result of experiencing poor quality and service from other laundries he was using when he owned and operated Patrick Plains Estate, a boutique 5 star guesthouse in the Hunter Valley.

So it is no surprise that as his new business grew, it was second nature for Martin to be on the lookout for any initiatives that would improve the quality and service he provides. And just like any business owner it was critical for him to always look for ways for his operation to be more productive, more efficient and cost less to run.

In 2005 he was introduced to the benefits of ozone technology at Launtex. Time spent researching the pros and cons amongst industry suppliers as well as his competition served him well in making a business-changing decision. In September 2008, Martin met the team from Ozone Technologies who introduced him to their OTEK laundry system. A combination of logic, fact, simple guarantees and extensive laundering knowledge provided the catalyst for him to proceed with ozone technology by the end of the year.

The benefits that ozone technology and the OTEK laundry system have



Martin McMurray and the team at Hunter Laundry

been delivering at Hunter Laundry have transformed their business. Greater productivity in washing, drying and ironing has meant increased capacity, business growth and savings in labour costs. Whiter linen and softer towelling means a higher quality service and more satisfied customers. A reduction in gas, electricity water and chemicals usage means a demonstrable and significant cost saving. A further beneficial outcome is a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions helping the business reduce their carbon footprint. Importantly the cost of the system came at the right price; probably

more importantly it has already paid for itself which means Martin gets to enjoy all the benefits for no more outlay.

High quality products and top notch service are essential to Martin and his approach to business so it was very reassuring for him to work with a likeminded team at OTEK.

He was particularly impressed with their excellent after sales technical and general laundry advice. In fact he's so pleased with the system he will happily welcome interested businesses to his laundry to experience it first hand.

Key Savings from the OTEK System

- 30% in Energy Costs per year
- 288 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per month
- 50 kg of chemicals per month
- 12 wash cycles per day
- 127 man hours per month