



New Zealand Employment Relations Authority Decisions

You are here: [NZLII](#) >> [Databases](#) >> [New Zealand Employment Relations Authority Decisions](#) >> [2011](#) >> [2011] NZERA 192

[Database Search](#) | [Name Search](#) | [Recent Decisions](#) | [Noteup](#) | [LawCite](#) | [Download](#) | [Help](#)

Callaghan v Whareroa Station [2011] NZERA 192; [2011] NZERA Auckland 141 (7 April 2011)

New Zealand Employment Relations Authority

[\[Index\]](#) [\[Search\]](#) [\[Download\]](#) [\[Help\]](#)

Callaghan v Whareroa Station [2011] NZERA 192 (7 April 2011); [2011] NZERA Auckland 141

Last Updated: 20 June 2011

IN THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS AUTHORITY AUCKLAND

[2011] NZERA Auckland 141 5281181

BETWEEN ALICIA JANE CALLAGHAN

Applicant

AND WHAREROA STATION

Respondent

Member of Authority: Representatives:

Submissions received:

Yvonne Oldfield

Caryl Blomqvist for Applicant Robert Gordon for Respondent

20 January 2011 from Applicant 25 January 2011 from Respondent

Determination:

7 April 2011

COSTS DETERMINATION OF THE AUTHORITY

[1] Ms Callaghan's employment relationship problem was the subject of a determination dated 11 January 2011. It was found that she had made out a personal grievance and she was awarded remedies of compensation, lost wages, and holiday pay.

[2] Ms Callaghan's representative, Ms Blomqvist, has now claimed costs, expenses and disbursements totalling \$5,585.28. Mr Gordon has responded that the total time Ms Blomqvist spent on the case was excessive, leading to what he considers an excessive claim for costs given her hourly rate, which he considered relatively low.

[3] This is not a convincing argument since it is often the case that a lower hourly rate will be charged by a practitioner who (perhaps because the case is not in their usual area of specialisation) requires more time to prepare than might otherwise be expected.

[4] I do not consider the costs' claim to be out of the ordinary given the nature of the case. The matter required a one day investigation meeting with some follow up and supplementary information, afterwards, in relation to the holiday pay claim. Costs awards for one-day matters should be the guide as to what is appropriate. On that basis, in all the circumstances, I consider an award of \$3,000.00 is a reasonable contribution to costs, disbursements and expenses.

[5] The respondent is therefore ordered to pay the sum of \$3,000.00 to Ms Callaghan as contribution to her costs, disbursements and expenses.

Yvonne Oldfield

Member of the Employment Relations Authority

NZLII: [Copyright Policy](#) | [Disclaimers](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Feedback](#)

URL: <http://www.nzlii.org/nz/cases/NZERA/2011/192.html>