

Under a Work and Development Permit (WDP) Scheme, health practitioners and organisations can become accredited 'sponsors' and provide activities so that the time a client spends engaged with their service they can 'work off' their fines debt.

*Fines issued by the court or in the name of a company and fines that have passed the 7 day notice period issued after 31 Dec 2017 (served by the Sheriff) are ineligible for inclusion on a WDP.*

## SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

You must become an accredited sponsor before your client can start 'working off' their fines debt.

A sponsor can either be a health practitioner (doctor, nurse or psychologist) or an organisation (government agency, not-for-profit organisation, general practice, for-profit organisations).

## CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

Only certain clients will be eligible for a WDP.

Your client may be eligible for a WDP if they are affected by:

- acute financial hardship (easiest to prove if client is on a Centrelink benefit);
- family violence;
- homelessness;
- mental illness or cognitive impairment; or
- addiction (drug, alcohol, gambling or volatile substances).

Clients only need to meet one to be eligible and you need to maintain a record of this.

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## ACTIVITIES & WORK-OFF RATES

The services you provide may count as an 'activity' under a WDP.

Clients can engage in treatment given by a health practitioner or drug and alcohol counselling and work off **\$1,063.85 (6.6 penalty units) per month** of their fines debt.

Clients can engage in unpaid work, a course, counselling (incl. financial) or a mentor program (under 25 years) and work off **\$48.36 (0.3 penalty units) per hour** of their fines debt.

## APPLYING FOR ACCREDITATION

Health practitioners must provide the following information:

- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) number.

Organisations must provide the following information:

- details of client group & type of activities
- key person contact details
- ABN
- insurance cover
- Working with Children's Check (if applicable).

Depending on the type of organisation you are, additional information may be required.

## APPLYING FOR A WDP

A sponsor must provide the following information:

- client and sponsor details
- fine details
- WDP activity
- estimated end time
- client consent

## HOW A WDP WORKS

### 1 Client has fines debt

Your client should obtain advice on fines options with a community legal centre, Legal Aid or financial counselor before they engage in a WDP with you.

### 2 You apply for accreditation

Apply online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au>. Read the Sponsor Handbook & WDP System Sponsor Guide provided by the Fines Victoria WDP Team.

### 3 You identify if your client is eligible for a WDP.

### 4 You and your client agree on a WDP activity.

### 5 You apply for a WDP

Apply online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au>. Once the WDP is applied for, fines debt is put on hold.

### 6 You provide & report activity

Report online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au>. You provide and report activity. Monthly report of hours/days client spends engaged in activity. A record of this must be maintained.

WDP is finalised when all the fines are 'worked off' or WDP end date reached.

Sponsor

## Fines debt - a real problem

Fines debt is money owed through incurring infringements such as public transport, toll, council, police and traffic fines.

The impact this debt has on vulnerable people in our catchment is devastating. Our infringement clients have an average of \$11,000 in fines debt.

Through a WDP you can change this as well as provide an additional incentive for them to remain engaged with your service.

## CONTACT US

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connect with us



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# ARE YOUR CLIENTS AFFECTED BY FINES DEBT?

The Work and Development Permit (WDP) Scheme enables health practitioners and organisations to help vulnerable clients deal with their fine debt in a **non-financial way.**

This is part of an initiative provided by the Department of Justice and Community Safety.



pclc

Peninsula  
Community  
Legal Centre

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Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.