

Under the Work and Development Permit (WDP) Scheme, eligible people can 'work off' their unpaid fines. A health practitioner or an organisation can become an accredited sponsor online through Fines Victoria. A sponsor can provide treatment, courses or other activities so that the time a client spends engaged in a sponsor's service counts towards clearing this debt.

- Driving restrictions will not be lifted
- Only voluntary treatments/courses/activities are eligible
- No cap on debt to be eligible for a WDP
- Flexible completion date
- Some fines are ineligible incl. court fines, fines in name of company and some fines passed 7 day notice period served by Sheriff

## WHAT IS A SPONSOR?

Sponsors include:

- Health practitioners (doctor, nurse, OT or psychologist); and
- Organisations (government agency, not-for-profit organisation, general practice, for-profit organisations).

A health practitioners or an organisation must already be a sponsor or willing to become a sponsor before a WDP can be applied for.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A WDP?

A person must be affected by at least one of the following:

- acute financial hardship (incl. being on a Centrelink benefit);
- family violence;
- homelessness (or in temporary accommodation);
- mental illness or cognitive impairment; or
- addiction (drug, alcohol, gambling or volatile substances).

A person's eligibility for a WDP does not need to be directly related to their treatment/course/activity.

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## WHAT ARE THE WORK OFF RATES?

Treatments, courses and other activities have different 'work off' rates.

Treatment given by a health practitioner or drug and alcohol counselling enable eligible people to work off **\$1,090.45 (6.6 penalty units) per month** of their unpaid fines.

Unpaid work, courses, counselling (incl. financial) or mentor programs enable eligible people to work off **\$49.57 (0.3 penalty units) per hour** of their unpaid fines.

Person can participate in multiple activities and work off debt faster.

## SPONSOR ACCREDITATION

Health practitioners must provide the following info:

- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) number.

Organisations must provide the following info:

- 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 additional info may be required.

## SPONSOR APPLYING FOR A WDP

A sponsor must provide the following info:

- persons details
- fine info (one or two infringement notices)
- WDP activity (course/treatment/other activity)
- estimated completion date
- confirmation of signed Information Consent Form

If person is on other fine arrangements (e.g. payment plan), sponsor should ask if this will continue. Also, sponsor should ask whether fines in the future will be incl. on WDP.

## HOW A WDP WORKS

### 1 Person has unpaid fines.

Before choosing a WDP, person can get advice on fines options from community legal centre or Legal Aid (or info from financial counsellor).

### 2 Person finds Sponsor. Sponsor is accredited.

Person can find sponsor by:

- contacting community legal centre;
- contacting Fines Victoria WDP Team; or
- asking health prac/org to become sponsor.

Sponsor accreditation (only needs to be done once!):

- apply online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au>;
- once accredited, sponsor receives reading material (incl Info Consent Form) and portal login details from Fines Victoria WDP Team.

### 3 Sponsor applies for WDP.

Sponsor must:

- agree on treatment/course/activity with person;
- sign Info Consent Form with person;
- apply online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au> (need 1 or 2 infringement notices from person); and
- have record on file proving person's eligibility e.g. case/file notes or supporting docs.

Once WDP applied for unpaid fines on hold. Fines Victoria WDP Team will also provide person's total indebtedness

### 4 Person engages with sponsor & sponsor reports participation.

Sponsor must:

- report online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au> (can report on 1st of each month); and
- maintain record of participation on file e.g. case/file notes or evidence of client appt.

Remember:

- Participation (prior to approved WDP) cannot be backdated.
- Person can only have 1 sponsor at a time but person can be referred to multiple 'third party providers'.
- WDP cancelled after 28 days of no reporting

## PCLC

PCLC is a community legal centre that helps people struggling with unpaid fines as well as family law, family violence, tenancy and other legal issues.

## Unpaid fines

Unpaid fines include public transport, toll, council, voting, police and traffic fines.

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

## The WDP

WDPs provide a therapeutic and flexible option for vulnerable people with unpaid fines before they reach the court. It can also act as an incentive for people to remain engaged in services and can help them feel empowered as they gain control over their debt.

## Sponsors

Accredited sponsors, why not ask every client you see if they have unpaid fines? The more you ask the more people you can help!

You can also ask the Fines Victoria WDP Team and/or your local community legal centre to be added to their list of sponsors if you'd also like to receive client referrals from them.

*This project was generously funded by the Legal Services Board*



Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

## CONTACT US

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### Fines Victoria WDP Team

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### connect with us



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# UNPAID FINES?

The Work and Development Permit (WDP) Scheme provides a non-financial way for vulnerable people to clear their unpaid fines by 'working them off' with the help of health practitioners and organisations..

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



Peninsula  
Community  
Legal Centre