

What are unpaid fines?

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

How can sponsors best use the WDP scheme?

Sponsors can:

- Promote accreditation on service material;
- Inform new clients of accreditation; and
- Accept client referrals from the Fines Victoria WDP Team and/or local community legal centre.

The WDP Scheme can act as a great incentive for eligible people to remain engaged in services as they gain control over their debt!

CONTACT US

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Head Office

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(Mon to Fri 9am - 5pm)

- WDP-business integration (incl staff information sessions)
- promotion and advocacy
- client-sponsor 'matching' service



Fines Victoria WDP Team

Fine & WDP portal assistance

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UNPAID FINES

The Work & Development Permit (WDP) Scheme

is a social justice initiative by Fines Victoria that allows eligible people to "work off" their unpaid fines by engaging with health practitioners and organisations

This project was generously funded by the Legal Services Board



Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.



The Work and Development Permit (WDP) Scheme

is a social justice initiative by Fines Victoria that allows eligible people to 'work off' their unpaid fines by engaging with health practitioners and organisations (known as 'sponsors'). Sponsors provide treatment, courses and other activities and report participation to help reduce this debt.

Driving restrictions will not be lifted.

Only voluntary activities are eligible.

Some fines are ineligible (court fines, fines in name of company & fines passed 7 day notice period).

No debt limit.

What is a sponsor?

Sponsors include:

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

It does not cost anything to become a sponsor.

A person can only have one sponsor but can be referred to multiple 'third party providers'.

Who is eligible?

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

- acute financial hardship (incl Centrelink benefit)
- family violence
- homelessness (or temporary accommodation)
- mental illness or intellectual disability; or
- addiction (drug, alcohol, gambling or volatile substances)

A person's eligibility does not need to be directly related to their WDP activity.

Work off rates?

Treatments, courses & other activities have different 'work off' rates. Eligible people can participate in a combination of activities.

Treatment given by a health practitioner or drug and alcohol counselling enable eligible people to work off **\$1,199.48 (6.6 penalty units) per month** off their unpaid fines.

Unpaid work, courses (incl. educational, vocational & life skills), counselling (incl. financial, social work & case work) or mentor programs enable eligible people to work off **\$54.52 (0.3 penalty units) per hour** off their unpaid fines.

INFO NEEDED : SPONSOR ACCREDITATION

Health practitioners must provide:

- AHPRA number

Organisations must provide:

- Details of client group & type of activities
- Key contact person details
- ABN
- Insurance cover; and
- Working with Children's Check (if applicable)

Additional info may be required for different organisation types.

INFO NEEDED : WDP APPLICATION

Sponsor must provide:

- Persons details
- Fine info (one or two infringement notices)
- WDP activity (course/treatment/other activity)
- Approx completion date; and
- Confirm Info Consent Form signed.

Sponsor can discuss with person if other fines arrangements (e.g. payment plan) continue or not. Sponsor can discuss if new fines will be incl. on WDP. Sponsor to notify Fines Vic WDP Team if fines not with Fines Victoria (at infringement stage) & are to be incl. on WDP.

How a WDP works

1 Person finds sponsor Sponsor is accredited

Person can get legal advice (eg Comm Legal Centre) on fines options before choosing a WDP.

Person can find sponsor by contacting a Community Legal Centre, Fines Victoria WDP Team or health prac/org to become their sponsor.

Sponsor must be accredited (only done once):

- apply online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au/login>
- sponsor given reading material (incl. Info Consent Form) and portal login details.

2 Sponsor applies for WDP

Sponsor must:

- apply online: <https://wdp.vic.gov.au/login>
- maintain record proving person's eligibility on file e.g. case note or supporting document.

Once WDP applied for, Fines Vic WDP Team places fines on hold, provides person's total indebtedness and notifies sponsor re new fines.

Sponsor must then confirm Info Consent Form signed and keep record on file.

3 Person engages with sponsor & sponsor reports participation

Sponsor must:

- report online monthly
<https://wdp.vic.gov.au/login>
- maintain record of participation on file e.g. case note or evidence of client appointment.

No backdating (prior to approved WDP).

WDP cancelled after 28 days of no reporting.

If WDP cancelled, debt will accrue and enforcement action will commence again.