

1. WDP Client Brochure

What is fines debt?

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

What do I have to do?

If you are eligible for a WDP, you must find a sponsor who will provide you with an activity and will monitor your participation to clear your fines debt. You can do unpaid work, counselling, courses, treatment programs & more!

You may have options other than a WDP, such as:

- pay by installments;
- ask for an extension of time;
- ask for a review;
- apply to have the fine written off if you are experiencing homelessness, domestic problems, medical problems or exceptional circumstances.

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Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

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CAN'T PAY YOUR FINES DEBT?

Work and Development
Permits (WDPs)
allow eligible people to
'work off' their fines debt.

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



Peninsula
Community
Legal Centre

Under the Work and Development Permit (WDP) Scheme, if you are considered eligible you can engage with a 'sponsor' that will provide you with an activity and monitor the time you spend in their service so that you can 'work off' your fines debt.

However, a WDP will not lift any driving restrictions (licence suspension or loss of demerit points).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GOING ON A WDP?

- It is voluntary, your sponsor can apply & reapply for a WDP on your behalf with your consent;
- You do not risk appearing at Court;
- Most fines are eligible (excluding fines issued by the court or in the name of a company and fines that have passed the 7 day notice period, served by the Sheriff);
- You can take responsibility by clearing your fines debt in a non-financial way and also improve your life by engaging in worthwhile services.

WHAT IS A SPONSOR?

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

A health practitioner or organisation must already be a sponsor or be willing to become an accredited sponsor before you can start working off your fines debt.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

Only certain people will be eligible for a WDP.

You may be eligible for a WDP if your sponsor determines that you are affected by:

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

ACTIVITIES & WORK OFF RATES

The service your sponsor provides may count as an 'activity' under a WDP.

You and your sponsor determine the WDP activity (or activities) you will participate in.

If you engage in treatment given by a health practitioner or drug and alcohol counselling, you can work off **\$1,269.25 (6.6 penalty units) per month** of your fines debt.

If you engage in unpaid work, a course, counselling (incl. financial) or a mentor program (under 25 years) you can work off **\$57.69 (0.3 penalty units) per hour** of your fines debt.

HOW A WDP WORKS

1 Obtain advice on fine options

Make an appointment with a community legal centre (CLC), Legal Aid or financial counsellor to discuss your fines options, including if a WDP is right for you.

2 Find a sponsor

You can contact your local CLC or the Fines Victoria WDP Team and they might be able to help you find an accredited sponsor. Alternatively, you can ask any health practitioners or organisations in your area if they are willing to become WDP accredited.

3 Agree on your activity

After your sponsor determines your eligibility, you and your sponsor decide what activity you will participate in. Your sponsor will apply for a WDP on your behalf. Once your WDP is applied for, your fines debt is put on hold.

4 Complete your activities

Complete the activities you have agreed to do. Your sponsor will report the hours/days you've spent engaged in your activity to the Fines Victoria WDP Team each month. If you don't complete your WDP, it may be cancelled and enforcement action will start again.

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