

# Work and Development Permit Scheme

## Client FAQ

### What is a Work and Development Permit?

A Work and Development Permit is an option to help eligible people to address their infringement fines. A WDP allows a person to 'work-off' their fine debt by participating in certain activities or treatment.

To undertake a WDP, an eligible person must be engaged with a sponsor. A sponsor is an organisation, or a health practitioner accredited by Fines Victoria to participate in the WDP scheme and supervise WDP clients.

### Am I eligible for a WDP?

You are eligible for a WDP if you:

- have a mental or intellectual disability, disorder or illness
- have an addiction to drugs, alcohol or volatile substance
- are experiencing homelessness
- are a survivor of family violence or
- are experiencing acute financial hardship

If you want to undertake a WDP, your sponsor will help you check if you are eligible.

### What type of activities or treatment can I do as part of a WDP?

Activities or treatment you can undertake as part of a WDP include\*:

- unpaid work
- courses – including educational, vocational or life skills
- counselling (including financial counselling but excluding drug & alcohol counselling)
- mentoring (only if you are under 25 years of age)
- drug & alcohol counselling
- treatment given by an accredited health practitioner

\*Court-ordered activities are ineligible to be counted towards a WDP. If you have been ordered by a court to engage in unpaid work for a total of 6 hours per month and you do 9 hours of unpaid work in that month, only 3 hours can be counted towards your WDP for that month.

If you undertake a WDP, your sponsor will help you choose the activities that are best suited to you and help you to keep track of your outstanding fine balance and the amount that you have worked off.

### What fines can I work-off with a WDP?

With a WDP, you can work-off outstanding infringement fines. However, you can't work off an infringement fine if:

- a sheriff or police officer has issued you with a 7-day notice and the 7-day period has passed
- you have been arrested because of your fine
- your property has been seized because of your fine

Court fines are ineligible to be worked-off through a WDP.

Your sponsor can help you understand which fines you can work-off with a WDP.



## Who can apply for a WDP for me?

If you would like to undertake a WDP, a sponsor must apply to Fines Victoria on your behalf. A sponsor is an organisation or a health practitioner accredited by Fines Victoria to participate in the WDP scheme.

Your sponsor will work with you to check that you are eligible for a WDP, to get information about your fines and to choose the activities that you will do as part of your WDP.

## What should I do if I think I am eligible?

If you are engaged with an organisation or a health practitioner, ask if they are a WDP sponsor. If they are already a WDP sponsor, talk to them about your interest in undertaking a WDP. If they are not a WDP sponsor, they can talk to Fines Victoria to find out about becoming a sponsor.

If you are not engaged with anyone, the WDP Team may be able to help you find a suitable WDP sponsor.

## Where can I get more information or help?



Visit [fines.vic.gov.au/wdp](https://fines.vic.gov.au/wdp).



Email [wdp@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:wdp@justice.vic.gov.au)



Call **1300 323 483**

9am and 4pm Mon-Fri

(except public holidays)



Visit [fines.vic.gov.au/support/legal-and-financial-assistance](https://fines.vic.gov.au/support/legal-and-financial-assistance) for information on how to get legal or financial help.