

The Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

# What is a Work and Development Permit?

The Work and Development Permit (WDP) is a social justice scheme providing an option for people who meet certain criteria to address their infringement fines in a non-financial way.

If eligible for a WDP, you can work off your infringement fine debt by participating in certain activities and treatment through a WDP sponsor, who is either an accredited organisation or health practitioner.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for a WDP, you must have unpaid infringement fines, such as parking, public transport, traffic or littering fines and be experiencing hardship, such as:

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

Your WDP sponsor will check if you are eligible for a WDP.

## What activities or treatment are there?

Eligible Aboriginal individuals can participate in either:

- unpaid work
- treatment given by a doctor, nurse or psychologist
- courses, including educational, vocational or life skills courses
- financial counselling
- drug and alcohol counselling
- mentoring (for a person under 25 years of age).

The WDP aims to give you a way to deal with your fines in a non-financial way when you participate in planned and holistic activities or treatments aimed at helping you address the causes of your disadvantage.

## What fines can go on a WDP?

	Can be included*	Can't be included
<b>Outstanding infringement fines</b>  *including but not limited to	Traffic fines	Court fines
	Parking fines	Infringement fine <b>past</b> seven-day notice expiry date
	Littering fines	If you have been <b>arrested</b> because of an infringement fine
	Toll fines	If <b>property or belongings have been seized</b> by a Sheriff because of an infringement fine
	Voting fines	
	Public transport fines	Fine that has been <b>paid</b>

If you are eligible for a WDP, your sponsor will help you identify which fines you can work off.

## What is the work-off rate?

Activity / Treatment	Work off rate
Unpaid work	Hourly rate: \$55.48/hour
Courses - education or life skills	
Counselling (excluding drug & alcohol counselling)	
Mentoring (for under 25 y/o only)	
Drug & alcohol counselling	Monthly rate: \$1,220.47/ month
Treatment given by a health practitioner	

## Who can apply for a WDP for me?

A WDP sponsor will need to apply for you. They will check your eligibility, get information on the fines you have and help you choose culturally appropriate activities or treatment that best address your needs.

If you are engaged with an organisation or health practitioner, ask if they are a WDP sponsor. If they are not, ask if they would like to be one. If you are not engaged with anyone, the WDP Team can help you.

## Case study - Rob

Rob has a fine debt of \$6,647.31 and problematic use of drugs & alcohol. Rob contacted the WDP Team to seek assistance with his infringement fines and was referred to an Aboriginal organisation.

Rob put \$5,048.41 of infringement fines onto his WDP but could not put \$1,598.90 of court fines onto his WDP. Rob worked off \$3,661.41 by participating in drug and alcohol counselling over a span of 3 months.

After completing drug & alcohol counselling, Rob engaged in a course about health & wellbeing and parenting. Rob attended 25 hours in a month and worked off another \$1,387.

After his WDP completed, Rob was able to re-enter the community with no infringement fine debt. Rob has also become closer to his family and friends thanks to the strategies he gained throughout his WDP participation.

To get more information on how the scheme can help you or if you need to find a sponsor, please contact the WDP Team at **1300 323 483** or [wdp@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:wdp@justice.vic.gov.au)