

# Work and Development Permits Information for clients

FACT SHEET



**Work and Development  
Permit Scheme**

In partnership with Department of Justice,  
Legal Aid WA and Aboriginal Legal Service WA



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Justice**



**This fact sheet has information about Work and Development Permits.**

## What is the Work and Development Permit Scheme?

The Work and Development Permit Scheme helps people who are having difficulty paying off their court fines.

People struggling to pay off their court fines can connect with a sponsor and their fines can be paid off through sponsored activities such as:

- » unpaid work,
- » medical or mental health treatment, or counselling for an alcohol or drug use problem,
- » educational, vocational or life skills course, or
- » a mentoring program, if you are under 25.

The Work and Development Permit Scheme is a partnership between the Department of Justice, Legal Aid WA and the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA.

## What is a fine?

A fine is an amount of money that a judge or magistrate in court may order you to pay as a penalty for breaking the law.

**Legal Aid WA's Work and Development Permit Service can help if you are struggling to pay off your court fines.**

## What can happen if you fail to pay your fines?

There can be serious consequences if you fail to pay your fines or fall behind in your payments. For example:

- » your licence might be suspended,
- » your personal property might be seized, or
- » you might have to pay additional penalty fees

## What is Legal Aid WA's Work and Development Permit Service?

The Work and Development Permit Service provides legal advice to people struggling to pay off their fines and can match them with a sponsor organisation under the Work and Development Scheme.

This fact sheet contains information only. It is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should speak to a lawyer. Legal Aid WA aims to provide accurate information but does not accept responsibility if it is not.

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**Advice can be provided by phone, video link, face to face and through community outreach.**

### **Where is Legal Aid WA's Work and Development Permit Service located?**

The Work and Development Permit Service operates from the Perth office of Legal Aid WA.

A Community Liaison and Education Officer is also available at the South Hedland regional office of Legal Aid WA.

Advice can be provided by phone, video link, face to face, and through community outreach.

### **Is there a cost in getting help from Legal Aid WA's Work and Development Permit Service?**

It is free to get help from the Work and Development Permit Service.

**You can access Legal Aid WA's Work and Development Permit Service by calling the WDP Hotline on 9261 6353.**



### **How can Legal Aid WA's Work and Development Service help you with your unpaid fines?**

The Work and Development Permit Service can help you with your unpaid fines by:

- » giving you general information and legal advice about unpaid court fines and their consequences
- » giving you information about how you can complete a period of unpaid community work (or other approved activity) instead of paying off the debt (called a 'Work and Development Permit')
- » linking you with sponsor organisations who can supervise you to complete approved activities
- » providing information sessions and community legal education

### **How can you access Legal Aid WA's Work and Development Permit Service?**

You can access the Work and Development Permit Service by calling the WDP Hotline on 9261 6353 or the Legal Aid WA Infoline on 1300 650 579.

You can also email [wdp-service@legalaid.wa.gov.au](mailto:wdp-service@legalaid.wa.gov.au).

To find out more about the Work and Development Permit Service you can visit the Legal Aid WA website: [www.legalaid.wa.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au)

The Legal Aid WA website has information, videos and self-help guides on a range of legal topics.