



Work and Development Permit Service – for sponsors

This fact sheet has information about the Work and Development Permit Service.

What is the Work and Development Permit Service?

The Work and Development Permit Service is a specialist service that helps people who are having difficulty paying off their court fines.

It matches people struggling to pay off their court fines with community organisations, so that fines can be paid off through a Work and Development Permit (WDP).

The Work and Development Permit Service is delivered by Legal Aid WA in partnership with the Department of Justice and the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA.

What is a Work and Development Permit?

A Work and Development Permit (WDP) allows someone who is experiencing hardship to reduce, or pay off, their court fines through voluntary participation in approved work and development activities.

A WDP is made by the Fines Enforcement Registry (FER) Registrar and is an agreement between the FER Registrar, an approved sponsor and the person wanting to reduce, or pay off, their court fines.

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A Work and Development Permit allows someone who is experiencing hardship to reduce, or pay off, their court fines through approved activities.

What can be an approved work and development activity?

The activities a client may undertake under a WDP can include:

- » unpaid work,
- » medical or mental health treatment,
- » an educational, vocational or personal development course,
- » treatment for an alcohol or drug use problem,
- » mentoring (for under 25s).

For more information about approved work and development activities and examples of each activity type, see the [Department of Justice website](#).

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Who is eligible to undertake a WDP?

Someone is eligible to undertake a WDP if they are experiencing hardship.

Some examples of hardship are if:

- » they are experiencing financial hardship
- » they are being subjected or exposed to family violence
- » they have a mental illness or disability
- » they are homeless
- » they have an alcohol or drug use problem
- » they are experiencing another type of hardship

Undertaking a WDP is voluntary. A client must agree to undertake a WDP with the support of an approved sponsor.

Who can be a WDP sponsor?

WDP sponsors can be an individual or organisation, including government agencies, health practitioners, sole-traders and not-for-profit agencies.

Sponsors must meet certain eligibility conditions and agree to specific terms and conditions.

For more information, and to apply online see the [Department of Justice website](#).

What is the role of a WDP sponsor?

An approved WDP sponsor is responsible for:

- » assessing a client's eligibility to undertake a WDP,
- » applying, on a client's behalf, for a WDP,
- » supporting a client undertaking a WDP, and
- » providing information to the FER Registrar on a WDP undertaken by a client.

How can Legal Aid WA help?

Legal Aid WA's specialist Work and Development Permit Service can help you or your organisation with information about applying for approval to be a sponsor.

We can help with:

- » matching clients in hardship to your service
- » hints on completing your application on behalf of your client
- » giving legal advice or assistance to clients engaged with your service about fines or other legal matters impacting on their ability to pay their fines
- » providing education and support to your team about Work and Development Permits

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

Where else can you get help?

To apply to be an approved sponsor, see the [Department of Justice website](#).

For help lodging WDP applications and activity details contact the Fines Enforcement Registry WDP Hotline 9235 0235 or 1300 650 235. You can also email ferwdp@justice.wa.gov.au

To contact the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Work and Development Permit Service, call 6371 4600 or email wdp-service@als.org.au