

**Report to NSW Legal Assistance Forum – November 2015
Fines and Traffic Law Working Group
for 2 December NLAF Plenary Meeting**

The working group met on 25 November 2015.

Term of Reference 1: Work with Legal Aid NSW, ALS and DAGJ to promote participation in the Work and Development Orders (WDO) program to key stakeholders and clarify referral pathways between them.

Enforcement of Victims Restitution Orders by State Debt Recovery - after a meeting with Victims Services the key issues for the Working Group remain as:

- Appropriate consultation with WDO sponsors and other stakeholders including Legal Aid NSW
- Clarification of the types of offences that may be included
- How debts would be treated. For example would partial write offs be available for restitution debts once a WDO has been completed?

The Working Group was advised that Corrective Services are reviewing their internal guidelines for the use of WDOs with prisoners who have fines debt. It was noted that Justice Health has indicated they are not willing to become a WDO sponsor, which means prisoners participating in JH therapeutic programs are missing out on the opportunity to pay off their fines as well.

Terms of Reference 2 & 3: Explore practical and workable options for licensing non-licensed drivers and re-licensing disqualified drivers.

The Working Group noted that a Bill proposed by the NSW Government supporting the 2013 Driver Licence Disqualification Reform Report recommendations in 2014 has not been progressed.

The Working Group noted that the issue of the State Government providing funding for Aboriginal people to access free birth certificates, particularly those living in RRR areas, has not been resolved and is being considered by the NLAF Plenary.

The Working Group is seeking data from RMS regarding the Alcohol Interlock Program and its use in the first year including how many have been issued under concessions and financial hardship rules including locations.

Next meeting

The Working Group agreed to continue meeting in 2016 but plans to review the current TOR to better reflect current issues. State Debt Recovery has been invited to have a representative join the Working Group and provide an update at the next meeting on a number of issues including:

- The issuing of garnishee orders and debt recovery more generally, particularly with vulnerable people
- SDR's youth engagement strategy
- The VS Restitution Order issue

The next meeting date is 24 February.

Andrew Taylor

Senior Solicitor Civil and Homeless Outreach
Chair, NLAF Fines and Traffic Law Working Group
25 November 2015