

Fines and Traffic Law Working Group Report to NLA – March 2016

The working group met on 2 March 2016. Key issues discussed included:

Terms of Reference

At this meeting the working group revised its terms of reference and agreed on the following:

Aim:

To reduce the number of people who experience legal problems associated with fines, licence suspension and disqualification, particularly in relation to young people and Aboriginal people affected by lack of alternative transport.

Objectives:

The Working Group will work collaboratively to address fines and traffic law issues impacting negatively on socially and economically disadvantaged people by:

- 1 Promoting participation in the Work and Development Order (WDO) program with key stakeholders. Identifying barriers to participation in the WDO program and working with stakeholders to address these issues;*
- 2 Identifying emerging issues with fines and working with stakeholders to address these issues;*
- 3 Identifying emerging traffic law issues including barriers to licencing non-licensed drivers and re-licensing disqualified drivers and working with stakeholders to address these issue;*
- 4 Providing advice on fines, traffic law and licence issues to Government.*

Chair

Nadine Miles from the Aboriginal Legal Service agreed to be the new Chair and Andrew Taylor was thanked for acting in this role during 2015.

Other Business discussed:

- The need for State funding for birth certificates for Aboriginal people, particularly older Aboriginal people seeking a driver's licence;
- Driver licence disqualification reforms and progress in getting the proposed Bill in to Parliament following the NSW Government Response to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety report;
- Alcohol Interlock Program and the need for plain English information about the financial hardship funding assistance available for this Program;
- Revised WDO Operational Guidelines for NSW Correctional Centres including those gaols privately run;
- New Bicycle Law and Fines and potential impacts on young people.

Request to NLA Plenary

From this meeting the Working Group is seeking the assistance from the NLA Plenary group in lobbying for State funding to be allocated for the issuing of Birth Certificates to Aboriginal people seeking to obtain a drivers licence.

The next meeting of the Fines and Traffic Law Working Group is 25 May 2016.

Andrew Taylor

Senior Solicitor Civil and Homeless Outreach

Chair, NLA Fines and Traffic Law Working Group - 2 March 2016