

Fines and Traffic Law Working Group Report to NLAf – February 2017

The working group met on 15 February 2017. Key issues discussed included:

Access to Birth Certificates

BDM reported they are finalising a pilot project proposal to work with six identified high schools in Western NSW to provide free birth certificates for young people without identity documents who are wishing to apply for their learner driver licence. This project will work alongside other agencies currently working in Western NSW assisting young people to learn to drive.

Fines and WDO Update

OSR Fines Collection Section reported they are currently finalising a Social Justice strategy. This strategy will initially be meeting and working with fines issuing agents, including NSW Police, to consider ways to work better with vulnerable and disadvantaged people when issuing penalty notices.

Justice is currently rewriting the WDO guidelines after agreed changes by the WDO Governance Group. These will be going to the NSW Attorney General in the next quarter for signing off. A few key changes highlighted by the Legal Aid NSW WDO Service were:

- Allowing For Profit agencies to become WDO sponsors in certain circumstances eg: Job Active Providers
- Allowing s32 court orders to be included as mental health treatment
- Definition of mental illness to include gambling addiction.

Licence Disqualification Reforms

Transport for NSW reported that the government interagency working group was meeting regularly and it is anticipated that the Reform Bill will be introduced into Parliament in the first week of April and should pass through the two houses without delay. A public announcement about the reforms and implementation strategies being put in place will follow. They anticipate 9,000 people will be eligible to apply for their current licence restrictions to be lifted on assent. Therefore extra funding is being provided to the RMS and Legal Aid NSW to assist with enquiries and the process required.

NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Driver Education, Training and Road Safety

The ALS (NSW/ACT) reported they will be doing a submission to this Inquiry.

The next meeting of the Fines and Traffic Law Working Group is 17 May 2017.

Nadine Miles

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Chair, NLAf Fines and Traffic Law Working Group