

Fines and Traffic Law Working Group Report to NLA – August 2017

The working group met on 16 August 2017 and had 2 Guest Speakers:

Edwina Crawford, Director, Aboriginal Services Unit, Department of Justice

5 priority areas of the Unit were outlined:

- Traffic
- Domestic Violence
- Juvenile re offending
- Breaches of Justice Orders
- incarceration rates particularly for (traffic and regulatory offences)

The 2 programs: Driving and Licence Offences Project was discussed (DLOP) and Driver Licensing Access Program (DLAP) were discussed and fact sheets distributed to the group. With extra funding the ASU and RMS have commenced an expansion of DLAP across a number of regional and remote locations including Wilcannia, Wentworth/Dareton, Orange, Tamworth, Campbelltown and Liverpool.

Louise Higgins-Whitton, Centre for Road Safety

Mobile Drug Testing Program was the topic of discussion.

Before 2015, NSW conducted around 30 000 tests per year – the target driver group for the tests were heavy vehicle drivers. The offences per year detected between 2007 – 2014 : 600 – 800 .The target of 97 400 was set for 2017 and car drivers are now included. The recorded offences detected for this period was 9 200.

The statistics and analysis that is part of the rationale of the significant investment in MDT includes: mandatory testing of drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2016 revealed that 1/3 of all had a significant presence of either/or a mixture of MDMA, THC, ICE and alcohol.

The role out of test equipment across the State continues and CRS is working with Police to ensure that LAC's with areas of 'high road crash risk' are prioritised.

There group spent time discussing the fact that the tests do not measure impairment – the test are designed to detect presence.

Key issues discussed included or carried over to next meeting:

- **Bicycle Fines and young people**
- **Access to Birth Certificates**
- **WDO Update – VRO Debts**
- **Licence Disqualification Reforms**
- **Revenue NSW Youth Engagement Strategy**

The next meeting of the Fines and Traffic Law Working Group is 8 November 2017.

Nadine Miles

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Chair, NLA Fines and Traffic Law Working Group, August 2017