

NLAF Fines and Traffic Law Working Group Report

The Fines and Traffic Law Working Group (FTLWG) met on 20 February 2019. We welcomed representatives from Community Corrections who joined us for the first time.

Submission to NSW Sentencing Council on Repeat Traffic Offenders

The NSW Sentencing Council is reviewing the sentencing of recidivist traffic offenders who may pose an ongoing risk to the community and aims to make recommendations for reform to promote road safety. It released a consultation paper in December 2018 on [Repeat Traffic Offenders](#), seeking submissions by 22 March 2019.

Members of the FTLWG discussed the questions posed by the Sentencing Council on:

- driving offences involving harm or a high risk of harm,
- sentencing principles,
- fines and penalty notices,
- suspension, disqualification and unauthorised driving,
- special penalties and interventions for driving offences, and
- community requiring special attention.

Draft submissions are attached for the NLAF Plenary Group's approval.

Prisoners and Identification Documents Subcommittee

The subcommittee met on 6 February 2019. It became apparent from discussions that affordability of birth certificates for prisoners is a barrier to accessing identification documents upon release. Currently, under the Fee Waiver Policy (PO 02-5) of the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (BDM), applications for fee waivers are not normally accepted from people who are due to be released or are recently released from prison. In some members' experience, applications for fee waiver by prisoners on compassionate grounds under the policy are also generally refused.

Julianne Evans (Chair of subcommittee), Jenny Lovric (ALS) and the NLAF project manager will be meeting with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages to discuss this issue.

Next meeting

The FTLWG has invited Stephen Brady, Commissioner of Fines Administration, to speak at the next meeting, which will be held on 15 May 2019.

Meredith Osborne
Chair, Fines & Traffic Law Working Group