

Factsheet 3.1

WDO Activities



1. General Overview

As part of a WDO, a person may undertake one or more of the following activities:

- Unpaid work
- Medical or mental health treatment
- Educational, vocational or life skill course
- Financial or other counselling
- Drug or alcohol treatment
- Mentoring program

A sponsor can provide activities directly or by referral to a third-party provider. It is the responsibility of the WDO sponsor (not Revenue NSW) to ensure that the activities proposed to be undertaken in a WDO are suitable and appropriate for the applicant. It is the responsibility of the WDO sponsor to report on the client's activity compliance every month

An approved WDO activity may be conducted within NSW and/or interstate and may be used to clear NSW fines for a person residing in another State or territory. If a person is eligible solely on the grounds that they have a drug or alcohol addiction they must undertake drug or alcohol treatment as part of their WDO.

WDO Activity	Rate
Unpaid work	\$30 per hour
Educational/vocational or life skills course	\$50 per hour
Financial, other counselling or case management	\$50 per hour
Medical or mental health treatment	\$1000 per month for full compliance
Drug or alcohol treatment	\$1000 per month for full compliance
Mentoring Program (all ages)	\$1000 per month for full compliance

Total: You may enter multiple WDO activities up to a total of \$1000 per month.

2. Direct and referral activities

Direct activities	Referral activities
WDO activities provided by your organisation. These activities are covered under your organisation's insurance and work health and safety provisions.	WDO Activities provided by a third party to a WDO applicant, which you are responsible to report on to Revenue NSW. You should be satisfied that the third party provider has current public liability insurance; is registered or has suitably qualified staff; has work health and safety policies and relevant Working with Children Check clearance for staff supervising children under 18.

3. List of WDO Activities

Unpaid work (\$30 per hour)	Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gardening• Planting trees• Charity bin pick-up & sorting• Men's/Women's shed• Assisting the elderly• Supporting homeless people• Youth Command/PCYC voluntary unpaid work• Kitchenhand• Charity work• General duties including warehouse• Office administration• Retail/General Assistant• Cooking• Property or park maintenance• Animal and wildlife shelter activities• Building outdoor facilities• Bush care programs• Volunteering at Reconciliation Day or NAIDOC activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be undertaken with or on behalf of an approved organisation• Must have a community benefit• Unpaid work must not provide a personal benefit to someone involve in supporting or supervising the WDO applicant• No remuneration or cash-in kind can be provided to the participant• The participant must be covered by the sponsor or the referral organisation's insurance and workplace health and safety provisions

Educational, vocational and life skills courses (\$50 per hour)	Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAFE NSW courses • Accredited Courses including University • Holistic Programs • Men's/Women's Shed • Living Skills (eg. parenting programs, anger management, men's behaviour change programs, independent living skills, problem-solving, conflict resolution, cooking, driving programs) • Aboriginal cultural programs • Tenancy Survival Program • Driver education course • Rise Up program • Corrective Services NSW Education Program • Cultural activities eg traditional painting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Educational courses</i> include courses undertaken at university, TAFE or other educational institutions. • <i>Vocational courses</i> encompass a wide range of courses that are designed to assist people enter or participate in the workforce. They include courses undertaken at TAFE and university. They also include courses undertaken in community or private colleges, or through a job service provider, for example, a course on computer skills. • <i>Life skills courses</i> foster the personal, social, and practical skills that help people function in society, on an independent basis.

Financial, other counselling, case management (\$50 per hour)	Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgeting guidance • Financial Education • Case Management eg a person's attendance at case management meetings with a case worker eg with a youth homeless case worker • Counselling – a professional activity, in which the counsellor or therapist helps the WDO participant explore and resolve issues of an interpersonal or personal nature. which may include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Family counselling to improve family communication and relationships, solve a problem or adjust to change – Group counselling such as domestic violence groups, men's behaviour change programs • Corrective Services NSW Financial or other counselling • Youth Command Supported Referral • Aboriginal cultural or community activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial counselling includes discussing ways to improve a person's financial situation through financial analysis, developing budgets and money plans, advising on payment options, assisting in applying for hardship variation of debts and negotiate with creditors. A financial counsellor also seeks to prevent future debt issues through budgeting strategies, increased access to income and adjustment to lifestyle. • Treatment directed at improving a WDO participant's mental health or resolving emotional or behavioural issues. • Case management is defined as collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual's holistic needs through communication and available resources to promote quality cost effective outcomes.

Medical or mental health treatment (\$1000 per month for full compliance)	Definition
<p>Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication/Dosing • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Annual Health Check Plan • Youth Command Supported Referral • Aboriginal Healing activity <p>Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling • Psychiatric appointments • Disability case management • Medical review • Residential • Community treatment order • Corrective Services NSW Medical/ Mental Health Treatment • Section 14 Mental Health Order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical or mental health treatment must be undertaken in accordance with a health practitioner's treatment plan, (that is, treatment that is prescribed or recommended by a health practitioner – a doctor, nurse or psychologist). • Once a health practitioner's treatment plan is approved mental health treatment may be provided by an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker (AAMHSW) or a health practitioner • A medical treatment plan may include a plan tailored to the individual's complex health care needs. For example, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander annual health check plan or an Aboriginal Healing program approved by a health practitioner.

Drug or alcohol treatment (\$1000 per month for full compliance)	Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential • Narcotics/Alcoholics Anonymous • SMART Recovery • Counselling • Corrective Services NSW Drug or Alcohol Day Program • Medical review and dosing • MERIT program • Youth Command Supported Referral • Activities undertaken on the order of a court including Drug Court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug or alcohol treatment aims to assist people to overcome dependencies on, or misuse of, alcohol and/or other drugs. • Various interventions may be used, including detoxification, medication or pharmacotherapy, counselling, behavioural therapy, group therapy, and 12-step programs. Such treatment may, but need not, occur in a residential facility.

Mentoring programs (\$1000 per month for full compliance)	Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management – youth • CHART Program • Corrective Services NSW mentoring program • Adult mentoring program • Youth Command Mentoring • Aboriginal Community activities • Aboriginal cultural or healing programs • Post-release mentoring or support • Financial budgeting and mentoring programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring is a semi-formal, structured relationship between a more experienced and less experienced person open to all people. Mentoring may contribute to general well-being, reduce isolation and develop connection with society, develop living skills, improve employment prospects or promote connection with culture and healing. Examples include programs for people transitioning from prison, refugee support or Aboriginal culture and healing • A mentoring relationship focuses on the needs of the mentee and is structured in a way that encourages progress towards the achievement of milestones and goals. • Mentoring is used to assist individuals at specific stages of development or transition and lasts for a sustained but defined period of time.

4. Permissible WDO Activities

The fact that an activity of a kind listed above is also required for some other reason (for example an activity is ordered by a court) does not preclude it from being counted towards a WDO.

For clarity, the following activities **may be** legitimately included in a WDO:

- Activities undertaken while in gaol, juvenile detention or on community supervision
- Activities undertaken as part of a Youth Conference Outcome Plan
- Participation in activities under 'reasonable directions' as part of a Parole Order, Community Correction Order, Conditional Release Order or intensive Correction Order pursuant to clauses 187, 188 and 214A of the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2014 ('CAS Regulation')
- Participation in voluntary court-diversion programs, such as the MERIT (Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment) program
- Treatment undertaken in a mental health facility or in the community under the *Mental Health Act 2007*
- Treatment or activities undertaken in accordance with the *Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment (Forensic Provisions) Act 2020*, where the Magistrate has dismissed the charge and no finding of guilt has been made
- Treatment or activities undertaken as part of a Drug Court order under sections 7A or 7B of the *Drug Court Act 1998*
- Educational activities undertaken by a person receiving Centrelink benefits
- Educational activities undertaken by children during normal school hours for children of compulsory school age
- Study-based activities undertaken for the purposes of a traineeship or an apprenticeship (including educational activities that are required by the traineeship or apprenticeship, such as attendance at TAFE or other registered training provider).

This is a non-exhaustive list. Any activity that fits within the definition set out in Part 3 (above) is a permissible activity.

Tip

If a person is only eligible under the ground of Serious Addiction, they must complete D&A treatment as part of their WDO activity. A person who fits under other eligibility grounds can do any WDO activity.

If you have any questions, please call the WDO hotline 1300 478 879 or email WDO@legalaid.nsw.gov.au.