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Government of
South Australia

News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney-General
Minister for Justice Reform
Minister for Planning
Minister for Housing and Urban Development
Minister for Industrial Relations

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New fines Unit collects millions in overdue fines

The Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit has banked over \$15 million since its doors opened in January.

Attorney-General John Rau said as of 31 March the Unit had collected 17 per cent more when compared to the same period last year.

“This means the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit has collected an additional \$2 million in its first two months than the same time last year,” he said.

“We have received 55,000 phone calls for debtors, while the same time last year there were 36,000 phone calls.

“The new Unit has focused on making it easier for people to pay their fines and we have seen more people being proactive and getting on top of their debt before it severely escalates.

“This is a solid first step for the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit and we are expecting to recover over \$90 million for the 2013/14 financial year.”

The Unit has a range of tough enforcement measures at its disposal including suspension of driver licences, seizing of property, and deductions from wages and salaries.

“At the moment at the end of each day we are seeing on average around 400 fine dodgers have their driver’s licenses suspended,” Mr Rau said.

“These people are given 14 days notice but if they don’t contact the Unit or begin work on paying off their fines their licenses are suspended.

“We want people to pay their fines before they are overdue but the Unit has various powers to deal with persistent fine dodgers who refuse to engage.”

The Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit is responsible for collecting fines for over 100 agencies across the state including local councils, SA Police and several State Government departments.

As at the end of March 2014, the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit was managing \$264 million in overdue fines.

For more information about the unit, including fine payment options, visit www.fines.sa.gov.au or call 1800 659 538.