

Deputy Premier John Rau

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

Sunday, 28th December 2014

Fine dodgers named and shamed

South Australia's serial fine dodgers will be publicly named and shamed for the first time under tough measures designed to reign in overdue fines.

Attorney General John Rau said the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit will publish the names of the top five defaulters who routinely and deliberately ignore payment of their overdue fines, with the top culprit owing more than \$115,000.

"Releasing the names of these individuals follows numerous attempts to engage with each of the debtors to address payment of their overdue fines – all of which have been dodged," he said.

"No payment has been received and there is no payment plan in place, which makes it clear they are deliberately avoiding payment.

"It is unacceptable that so many people are finding ways to beat the system and not pay their fines on time when we have many practical payment options available.

"The individual who tops the list as our biggest fine dodger has racked up an outstanding debt of more than \$115,000, which includes up to 219 fines for traffic and parking infringements and a range of other offences.

"While there are greater amounts owed by individuals other than what is published on this list, these people have been in contact with the unit to advise of their situation and have arranged a suitable payment plan."

Approximately 300,000 overdue fines have been referred to the Fines Unit over the last 12 months and they receive more than 1,500 contacts from individuals each day to address their overdue payments.

Last month, the Fines Unit received additional funding from the State Government to boost staff numbers, cut call waiting times and increase its capacity to collect overdue fines.

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“Currently, up to 800 payment arrangements are set up or added to daily by individuals, with more than 1,200 overdue enforcement notices issued each day.

“The Fines Unit has the power to implement a number of enforcement sanctions to encourage those who have forgotten or are deliberately avoiding payment of their outstanding debt.

“Fine dodgers who avoid paying their fines can now have their driver’s licence suspended and property seized.

“More than 16,000 South Australians currently have their licence suspended for failing to address overdue fines and this number is increasing daily.”

If someone has an overdue fine, and fails to address the outstanding debt within a prescribed period, they will in the first instance be restricted from renewing their licence, registerer or transferring ownership of a vehicle.

If they continue to ignore it, their driver’s licence will be suspended indefinitely. Restrictions and suspensions are only removed when an individual contacts the Fines Unit.