Automatic indexation of fees and fines

Victorian Government departments and agencies charge a range of:

* Fees for services and regulatory purposes, including licensing and registering certain activities; and
* Fines for improper conduct, and to discourage unlawful behaviour.

Revenue raised by fees and fines is a relatively small part of overall funding available for government services in Victoria - less than 3 per cent of the total (excluding vehicle registration fees).

Fees and fines are officially set and revised by legislation relevant to their application, and applied and reviewed by government departments.

From 1 July 2018, the value of a penalty unit is $161.19 and the value of a fee unit is $14.45.

Why does the Government automatically index fees and fines?

Each year, the Victorian Government automatically indexes many fees and fines to ensure that their original value is maintained. The indexation of fines ensures that penalties continue to discourage unlawful behaviour.

The indexation of fees ensures the cost of a service provided is paid for by the user, rather than by many taxpayers who may not use the service at all.

How are fees and fines automatically indexed?

The *Monetary Units Act 2004* governs the indexation of fees and fines set by various departments. Fees and fines are automatically indexed by adjusting the value of all fee and penalty units by an ‘annual rate’. This is applied from 1 July each year. The value of the fee or fine unit is published in the Government Gazette and major newspapers.

Are all fees and fines automatically indexed?

The policy of automatic indexation applies to Victorian Government fees and fines over the value of one unit and payable to the Public Account, unless they are otherwise exempt. While the automatic indexation of fees and penalties not payable to the Public Account is not required, such fees and penalties can still be converted into units under the *Monetary Units Act 2004* in order to be subject to automatic indexation.

In addition, some fees and fines are not indexed annually because they are subject to external price determination regimes and national agreements, or set by privatised, corporatised or self-funding statutory authorities and entities.

Lists of government fees and fines

To ensure openness and transparency, the Victorian Government requires every department to publish all fees and fines that are automatically indexed on their respective internet sites by 1 July each year.

The quickest way to find a list of the Government’s automatically indexed fees and fines is by visiting links from the Department of Treasury and Finance’s website: [www.dtf.vic.gov.au](http://www.dtf.vic.gov.au)

What is provided in the lists?

The lists provide an up-to-date account of:

* The types of fees and fines that are charged; and
* The amount payable for each fee and/or fine.

Although all departments have sought to make the lists as accurate and complete as possible, updates and revisions may be necessary.

Other fees and fines information

What if I cannot immediately afford to pay a fee or fine?

Individuals experiencing financial hardship may be able to pay by instalments when they receive a State Government issued fine. This enables individuals experiencing financial difficulties to meet their required payment/s. For more details, visit http://www.fines.vic.gov.au or call the Fines Victoria Helpline on 03 9200 8111. Callers from regional Victoria can contact the Fines Victoria Helpline on 1300 369 819.

Are any concessions available for fees charged?

The Victorian Government provides concessions on certain fees. These concessions differ in relation to eligibility and the rate of the discount applied. Any questions about concessions should be raised with the government authority responsible for the fee.

What if I think a fee or charge is unfair?

If any person feels a fee or fine they have to pay is unfair, they should, in the first instance, raise his or her concerns with the responsible government authority.

Alternatively, individuals can take the matter to the Victorian Ombudsman, who has the power to investigate complaints about government authorities as long as the complaint:

* Is not more than 12 months old; and
* Could not be more appropriately decided by a court or tribunal.

You can contact Ombudsman Victoria on:

Telephone: (03) 9613 6222, Toll Free 1800 806 314 (Regional Only)
Email: ombudvic@ombudsman.vic.gov.au

For further information

For more information please contact the Department of Treasury and Finance:

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