



# Being intoxicated in public is no longer a crime

**Police cannot arrest you, lock you up or fine you just because you are intoxicated in public.**

## Police can...

- Help you access support from an Aboriginal health response team with your consent, or help you get home or go to a sobering centre.
- Help you contact a friend or relative if you do not want to go to a sobering centre.
- Respond to calls from the public or approach a person who is intoxicated in public while they are on patrol.
- Police still have powers to question, arrest and detain you for other reasons. They can also issue a 'move on' direction.

## Where can I get legal help?

- If you are arrested, fined, or issued with a summons or notice to appear you should **speak to a lawyer**.
- Mob can call VALS on **1800 064 865** to speak to a lawyer for free.
- If you are in **police custody** you can ask to speak with the VALS' Custody Notification Service. If you are intoxicated while you are in custody its important that you tell police and VALS so we can make sure you are safe.





## Who can help if I am intoxicated in a public place?

Some regions in Victoria have Aboriginal outreach workers who can help you get home or contact a friend. To get help from an Aboriginal outreach service you can call **000** and tell the operator you or someone you are with is intoxicated in public.

The operator will transfer you to the VAHS Centralised Service. The VAHS team can put you in contact with the Aboriginal outreach service in your area.

Aboriginal outreach services are available to support people in the following regions:

- Ballarat - BADAC
- Bendigo - BDAC
- Geelong - Wathaurong
- East Gippsland and Latrobe Valley - Ngwala
- Metro Melbourne, Wyndham and Frankston - Ngwala
- Mildura and Swan Hill - Ngwala
- Shepparton - Rumbalara

## Sobering centres

There are two sobering centres in Melbourne:

- A **Mob only service** run by Ngwala in St Kilda
- A **mainstream service** run by CoHealth in Collingwood

In regions where there are no sobering centres available the Aboriginal outreach team can find a place of safety for you to sober up.

**If you need legal help you can call  
VALS on **1800 064 856** for a yarn**

