

### What happens if I decide not to go?

You agreed to attend a DDAP. If you do not attend and complete at the time and place noted on the **'Minor Drugs Offence Diversion (Agreement to Attend and Requirement to Comply)'** form given to you by police, you commit with an offence of 'Contravening the direction of a Police Officer' under provisions of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld) and you may have to attend court.

Remember, you are responsible for making all arrangements necessary for you to attend the appointment at the time and place agreed. This includes organising reliable transport. You may also need to organise time away from work.

The police officer will have given you a copy of the agreement you signed. You should keep this in a safe place, in case you have to check the details of your appointment and take it with you to the DDAP.

### What if I cannot attend my DDAP?

In exceptional circumstances, such as you being hospitalised or a death in your immediate family, you may be able to arrange an alternate appointment.

You should contact the police officer you originally dealt with or the police station where you were diverted as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

### If required use this box to record your PDDP details:

Service provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Details of police officer offering diversion:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### A Joint Commonwealth-State Initiative

This initiative is funded by the Commonwealth Government as part of the Council of Australian Governments' National Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative.

For more information on the Police Drug Diversion Program go to the Queensland Police Service PDDP webpage:

[www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/drugs/pddp](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/drugs/pddp)

### Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative

# What do I need to know about the Police Drug Diversion Program?



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## What is the Police Drug Diversion Program?

The **Police Drug Diversion Program (PDDP)** is a legislated diversion program that enables police to offer eligible persons apprehended for a minor drugs offence with an opportunity to attend and complete a **Drug Diversion Assessment Program (DDAP)** with an approved Queensland Health service provider, instead of having to go through the normal court process. The PDDP is not about the decriminalisation or legalisation of the possession or use of illicit drugs.

The PDDP aims to:

- Provide people apprehended for a minor drugs offence with an incentive to address their drug use early and, in many cases, before incurring a criminal record;
- Increase the number of illicit drug users accessing assessment, education and treatment; and
- Reduce the number of people appearing before the courts for possession of small quantities of cannabis, or a thing used for smoking cannabis.

## What is a minor drugs offence?

A **minor drugs offence** includes the possession of not more than 50 grams of cannabis (equivalent to a large egg) or a thing that is used for, or has been used for, smoking cannabis.

## Are diversion programs available to adults and children?

Yes. A police officer must offer all eligible adults and eligible children, who have previously been cautioned for a minor drugs offence, the opportunity to attend a DDAP. An offer may be made to an eligible child who has not been cautioned.

## How many times can a diversion be offered?

A DDAP will be offered only once by police. Even if you reject the offer, or do not attend the agreed DDAP, no further offer will be made. If you are apprehended for another minor drugs offence you will not be offered an opportunity to attend a DDAP by police.

## What will I have to do at the DDAP?

During the assessment part of the session you will be asked about how much and how often you use illicit drugs such as cannabis and the situations in which you use them. You will also be asked about any problems you have that may influence your drug use.

The education session will provide you with information on the health effects of illicit drug use and the legal consequences of continued use. You may be shown a video and will be given printed information on illicit drugs. The DDAP provider will then work with you to develop a personal plan to help you to stop using illicit drugs.

If appropriate, you may be given information about, and access to, a treatment program for illicit drug dependence. Attending a treatment program is voluntary and not part of the police requirement to attend the DDAP.

## How long will the DDAP take?

Assessment, education and counselling will be provided during a single session and will take about two hours altogether.

## What are the benefits of accepting diversion?

If you attend and complete a DDAP **you will not:**

- be charged with a criminal offence in this instance;
- have to attend court for this minor drugs offence; or
- have a criminal record for the minor drugs offence.

But, you will receive:

- factual information about the consequences of illicit drug use; and
- assistance to stop using illicit drugs.

## Can I take a friend with me to the DDAP?

Yes. You are encouraged to take someone, a family member or a friend, who you feel will support and help you to make positive changes to your drug use.

## Is information given during the DDAP confidential?

Yes. The matters you discuss and all information you give to the DDAP service provider is strictly confidential. The police will only be advised about whether or not you attend the DDAP.