



Youth busking and street entertainment fact sheet

What is busking?

Busking involves providing entertainment in a public place for voluntary donations. It can include dancing, singing, miming, puppetry, playing an instrument or reciting a story or poetry. The City of Subiaco supports busking in the town centre as it gives people an opportunity to showcase their creative talents and adds to the city's vibrancy to make Subiaco a unique place where people want to be.

How can I apply to busk in Subiaco?

Download the street entertainment application form which can be found on the city's website. There is no cost for an application to busk within the City of Subiaco, however all street entertainers must apply for a permit and follow the city's guidelines. Please list as much detail in the form as you can, for example, if you plan on using a small speaker, or decorating your area for your performance, specify this so that the city is aware of the type of equipment that you will have on site. Permission will be required from parents/guardians for buskers under eighteen. Once you have completed the form you can return it to the city in person, via email, fax, or post.

What is the process once I have submitted my form?

Your application form will be assessed by the city's building and health services to ensure you have provided the correct information and the time/location you have requested is available. Once your application has been processed and approved, they will contact you and arrange a time for you to collect your permit from the city's Administration Centre. The application and approvals process usually only takes three to five working days.

How long is my permit valid for?

A permit is valid only for the dates specified. Group acts are required to list all members' details on the application form. Please hold onto your permit while you are busking as you may be asked to show it to City of Subiaco officers if requested.

Do I need public liability insurance?

Depending on the nature of your performance, you may need to source public liability insurance. A performance that involves potentially hazardous items/materials/activities or audience participation (for example, juggling) is more likely to be required to source public liability insurance. If you have any questions or are unsure about whether you need insurance, please contact the city's building and health services on 9237 9222.

What do I need to be able to busk?

You will need to supply your own equipment for your performance. Please keep in mind that you will not have access to power at your site, so if you need backing music you will be required to bring a small battery operated speaker or similar device. It's a good idea to consider putting up a small sign or, if you want to go all out, lightly decorate the area around you to draw attention to your space. If you're a musician, it's always better to stand up if possible so that you are more visible to passers-by.

Buskers generally just leave a tip jar (such as hat/basket) or an open instrument case in front of them for donations. It is a requirement that you leave the area tidy and not create any litter. The city is not responsible for the security of any donated money. Please ensure that you pack away and clean up your busking site at the end of your performance.

When can I busk?

Busking is allowed from Monday to Friday, between 7am to 10pm, and Saturday and Sunday, between 9am and 10pm.

Please note: Young people aged between fourteen and seventeen will not be allowed to perform during school hours (Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 3.30pm) without permission from their parent/guardian.

Where can I busk?

The city has four approved busking locations:

- Subiaco Train Station
- Park Street , Subiaco (next to the post office on Rokeby Road)
- Forrest Walk (Rokeby Road opposite Churchill Street)
- Library corner (corner of Bagot and Rokeby roads, Subiaco).

You are able to select your preferred location on the street entertainment application form; however access to each location depends on the demand for the space and any prior applications which have been received.

How long should I busk for?

You can decide how long you would like to busk for – and this will depend on the amount of material that you plan to perform. However in the interest of busker safety and wellbeing the city has limitations on the length and frequency of busking slots. Therefore, buskers can perform for:

- a maximum of two hours per booking
- a maximum of two sessions per day from the one busker
- a maximum of five sessions per week from the one busker.

Who can I contact if I have any other questions?

If you have any questions or would like help with your application please contact the city's youth officer on 9237 9222 or culture@subiaco.wa.gov.au