

Victim Assistance Scheme

Financial assistance available for prosecutions under Regulatory Agencies
(WorkSafe New Zealand, Maritime New Zealand or Civil Aviation Authority)



The Victim Assistance Scheme (VAS) provides financial support to victims of certain types of crime to alleviate some of the financial burden of being a victim and to increase participation in the justice system.

This is achieved through access to discretionary payments, counselling, and support including travel and attendance at court.

Please note: Grants may differ depending on individual circumstances

Eligibility

The grants apply to incidents in New Zealand on or after 1 July 2020 **and** where a prosecution is initiated on or after 1 July 2021.

They do not include incidents before 1 July 2020 **and/or** prosecutions initiated before 1 July 2021. Serious injury is defined by the prosecuting agency under its relevant legislation: s2(1)(a) of the Civil Aviation Act 1990, s2(1)(a) of the Maritime Transport Act 1994, or s23 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

- **Fatalities**

Up to five family members plus one support person

- **Serious injuries (physical)**

Primary victim and one support person

Who can a support person be?

The victim/survivor can decide whether they wish to travel alone or bring a support person. Additional people can also travel, but Victim Support can only contribute to the costs for five family members and one support person for a fatality or the survivor and one support person for serious injury.

The support person must be 18 or older.

A support person could be a parent, other family member, trusted friend, or professional support person.

Available payments

Support for travelling to court

The Travel Assistance Grant helps victims/survivors and their support person to travel to attend court proceedings. Funding limits apply.

- **Travel** – return flights (domestic or international) booked by Victim Support or kilometres for personal vehicle travel, whichever is the lowest cost. To claim travel costs, you must be travelling a minimum of 16km return.
- **Accommodation** – a maximum of \$200 per night (but a fair, reasonable and available test is always applied) for accommodation booked by Victim Support.
- **Meals** – \$20 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch and \$35 for dinner for adults. Different rates apply for children (if childcare is not being claimed).
- **Childcare** – paid at \$100 per day, if care is outside regular routine arrangements.
- **Taxis and parking** – Taxis or parking must be approved by Victim Support.

IMPORTANT

Victim Support makes all bookings. Please contact us directly to make travel arrangements.

CONTACT

Victim Support

0800 VICTIM (0800 842 846)
contactservice@victimsupport.org.nz





Counselling

(offered alongside victims' engagement with the justice system)

- **Fatalities**
Up to 30 sessions with an approved counsellor for whānau, close friends, and prosecution witnesses
- **Serious injuries (physical)**
Up to 15 sessions with an approved counsellor for primary victims and prosecution witnesses.

How to apply

Victims/survivors can ask their Victim Support worker, court victim advisor, or the prosecuting agency that is supporting them to help make a VAS application. You can contact Victim Support 24/7 on **0800 842 846**.

If your application includes travel, it's important to submit your application well in advance.

Victim Support makes Victim Financial Assistance Scheme payments twice weekly.

For more information

Please contact your Victim Support worker or contact us on 0800 VICTIM (842 846).



Our service is free, personal, and confidential

