

Guidance on Grants Available to Victims of Serious Crime

Victim Assistance Scheme Updated 1 July 2023



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

What do we mean by serious crime?

Although all types of crime are serious to the victim, eligibility for these grants are limited to certain types of serious crimes based on their categorisation in the Crimes Act. Examples include home invasion, arson and serious assault.

Please contact Victim Support if you are unsure if you are eligible. Other grants are available for sexual violence, homicide and those who have died from criminal acts.

Grants available for primary victims of Serious Crime

Serious Crime Grant

Up to \$2,000 may be available to contribute to safety and immediate financial needs for a primary victim of serious crime.

Examples may include replacing locks, repairing broken window/doors, relocation and accommodation costs, car rental and income lost for time off work.

This grant should be claimed within **six months of the date of the crime**.

Counselling

A maximum of 15 counselling hours are available for primary victims of serious crime, **for incidents after 1 July 2023**.

Travel & accommodation

A grant is available (with limits) for the primary victim and up to 3 whānau/family/support people to attend trials, sentencing, hearings and other justice sector proceedings.

Victim Support make all travel and accommodation bookings.

Court attendance allowance

\$124/day or \$62/half day is available for a primary victim and up to 3 whānau/family/support people who have lost earnings attending court hearings. Support people must be **18 years or older**.

Please note that witnesses are paid by the Ministry of Justice under the *Witnesses and Interpreters Fees Regulations 1974*.

Crime Scene Grant

Up to \$2,000 may be available where a police cordon has been put in place, the police confirm they are investigating a crime and the victim has been displaced.

Helping victims of serious crime by contributing to costs related to the crime, the justice process, and recovery.

**For further information, please contact: Victim Support
0800 VICTIM (0800 842 846)
victimsupport.org.nz**

CONTACT

Victim Support

0800 VICTIM (0800 842 846)
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Manaaki Tāngata
Victim Support

