

Guidance on Grants Available to Victims of Sexual Violence

Victim Assistance Scheme Updated 1 July 2023



The Victim Assistance Scheme (VAS) provides financial support to victims of serious 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

Grants available for victims of Sexual Violence

Grants – A police file number is required.

- Amount of grant depends on the incident date and may require a cost breakdown.
- A \$500 lump sum may be available to assist with the aftermath of a crime.
- A supplementary grant of up to \$2,000 may be available for victims of sexual violence who have additional safety and other needs which cannot be met by the lump sum payment.

Counselling

A maximum of ten counselling hours may be available if there are delays through ACC.

Funding for counselling may be available from the \$2,000 supplementary grant which has a primary purpose of funding safety support for the victim.

Travel & accommodation

A grant is available (with limits) for the 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*.

\$300 ex.GST/day or \$150 ex.GST/half day is also available for a specialist agency support person when victim is giving evidence or reading a Victim Impact Statement (if no unpaid supporter is available).

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.

Please note:

Minors – Travel and Court Attendance Applications

- If the primary victim is a child/minor/young person and **they do not** attend court, then both the parents/caregivers/guardians are entitled to funding and are each entitled to a support person
- If the primary victim is a child/minor/young person and they do attend court, then both the parents/caregivers/guardians of that child are entitled to funding as support people and funding would also be available for the primary victim.

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

CONTACT

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Manaaki Tāngata
Victim Support

