



Victim Assistance Scheme (VAS)*



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

* Guide only. Funding may differ depending on individual circumstances.

Administered by Victim Support on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

	Grant	Counselling	Travel and accommodation	Court attendance allowance	Crime scene grant
Homicide ▶	Up to \$7,000 to a representative of the deceased's whānau/family for immediate financial costs, e.g. the funeral, travel to the scene.	Up to 30 hours per affected person (whānau/families, friends, witnesses, and discoverers).	Grant available (with limits) for up to 6 people to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.	\$124/day or \$62/half day for up to 5 whānau/family members attending court hearings if they have lost earnings.	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.
Death by criminal act ▶	Up to \$7,000 to a representative of the deceased's whānau/family for immediate financial costs, e.g. the funeral.	Up to 30 hours per affected person (whānau/families, friends, witnesses and discoverers).	Grant available (with limits) for up to 6 people to attend trials, sentencing, hearings and other justice sector proceedings.	\$124/day or \$62/half day for up to 5 whānau/family members attending court hearings if they have lost earnings.	
Sexual violence ▶	\$500 lump sum to assist with the aftermath of a crime that has been reported to the Police. A supplementary grant up to \$2,000 may also be available to assist with relocation, safety, and healing costs.	Counselling may be available if there are delays through ACC.	Grant available (with limits) for the victim and up to 3 whānau/family and support people to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.	\$124/day or \$62/half day for victim and up to 3 whānau/family, friends and/or unpaid support people who have lost earnings. \$300/day or \$150/half day for specialist agency support person when victim is giving evidence or reading Victim Impact Statement (if no unpaid supporter is available).	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.
Serious crimes ▶	Up to \$2,000 to contribute to the safety and immediate financial needs for primary victims of serious crime.	Up to 15 hours are available for a primary victim of serious crime, for incidents after 1 July 2023.	Grant available (with limits) for the victim and up to 3 whānau/family and support people to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.	\$124/day or \$62/half day for victim and up to 3 whānau/family, friends who have lost earnings and/or unpaid support people.	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.
Regulatory agencies ▶ (WorkSafe New Zealand, Maritime New Zealand, Civil Aviation Authority)		Fatalities Up to 30 hours with an approved counsellor for family/whānau, close friends, and prosecution witnesses. Serious physical injuries Up to 15 hours with an approved counsellor for primary victim(s) and prosecution witnesses.	Fatalities Grant available (with limits) for up to 5 whānau/family members plus 1 support person to attend trials, sentencing, hearings and other justice sector proceedings. Serious physical injuries Grant available (with limits) for primary victim and 1 support person to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.		

Who is eligible?

For the purposes of the grants, 'victim' is used to refer to the primary victim of a crime, i.e. the person against whom the crime was committed. Victim Support will determine whether you are eligible for the Victim Assistance Scheme based on criteria established by the Ministry of Justice.

Travel conditions



Victim Support makes travel and accommodation bookings – funds are generally not given for reimbursement.

How do victims apply?



Through Victim Support – talk to your support worker or call us on 0800 842 846.

Manaaki Tāngata
Victim Support

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