

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

Victim Support

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


Manaaki Tāngata
Victim Support



Updated 1 July 2023



Police & Agency engage with Victim Support on behalf of the Primary Victim to access initial/emergency funding

Sexual Violence Grant (SVG)

Form to be completed and sent to Victim Support.

Primary victim application only

Sexual Violence Lump Sum (SVL)

(effective 1 July 2023)

Form to be completed and sent to Victim Support.

Primary victim application only

Sexual Violence Supplementary (SVS)

(effective 1 July 2023)

The aim of this grant is to help with emergency needs to support healing and increase safety.

Primary victim application only



Police, Agency – retain engagement

Sexual Violence Travel Assistance Grant (SVTA)

Primary victim and up to 3 whānau/family/support people

Court familiarisation, witness requirements (days attending), support person/people request and overall travel requirements (including accommodation and food) discussed with Police/Agency/CVA.
Form to be completed and sent to Victim Support.



Court Proceedings

Sexual Violence Court Attendance (SVCA)

Primary victim and up to 3 whānau/family/support people

ONCE attendance is confirmed, form to be completed and sent to Victim Support.

You must be aware client is in employment.

If a non-funded agency is not being paid to provide court support, you may be able to apply, please discuss with your local Victim Support contact.



Police, Agency – retain engagement

Sexual Violence Travel Assistance Grant (SVTA)

Primary victim and up to 3 whānau/family/support people

For Restorative Justice and Parole proceedings, there is no court attendance available.

Form to be completed and sent to Victim Support.

For all applicants:

Please contact your local Victim Support Worker or email completed form to contactservice@victimsupport.org.nz who will then forward to your local contact. Or call us on **0800 VICTIM (842 846)**.



Sexual Violence

