

Financial assistance available for survivors of sexual violence

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About the Victim Financial Assistance Scheme

The Victim Financial Assistance Scheme (VAS) helps survivors of serious crime in New Zealand to cover some of the costs related to the crime. It is administered by Victim Support on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. Under VAS, Victim Support can help survivors of sexual violence to contribute to costs that result from when the crime happened, reporting the crime, or for the survivor and a support person to attend court proceedings.

Support for costs

The **Sexual Violence Grant** is a one-off cash grant of up to \$500. Eligibility depends on the date of the crime. See below for details:

- **If the crime occurred on or after 1 July 2020:**
If reported to police within 12 months the full \$500 can be claimed with no proof of costs required. Must be reported within 12 months to be eligible.
- **If the crime occurred between 1 Jan 2011 – 1 July 2020:**
Up to \$500 can be claimed for the cost of reporting to police (e.g. kilometres and loss of income)
- **The crime occurred between 1 Jan 2010 – 31 Dec 2010:**
Up to \$250 can be claimed for the cost of reporting to police (e.g. kilometres and loss of income)
- **Crimes prior to 2010:**
Not eligible

Support for travelling to court

The **Sexual Violence Travel Assistance Grant** helps survivors and their support person to travel to attend court proceedings or parole hearings. 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 \$200.00 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 & parking** – Taxis or parking pre-approved by Victim Support

IMPORTANT

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



Support for attending court

The **Sexual Violence Court Attendance Grant** provides survivors and their support person with a small daily allowance towards other costs when attending court.

Under this grant, Victim Support can contribute \$100 per day **OR** \$50 per half day each for survivors and their support person when they attend court proceedings. This grant is not means-tested and you do not need to prove that you have lost earnings or incurred costs.

Other financial support

If you suffer an injury as a result of sexual assault or sexual violence or would like therapy, ACC may be able to help pay some of your costs. Contact ACC Sensitive Claims on 0800 735 566.

If you suffer an injury as a result of sexual assault or sexual violence, Work & Income may be able to help you with your living expenses (this is means tested). Contact Work & Income on 0800 559 009.

In serious emergency situations, Victim Support may be able to provide additional financial support through the Serious Crime Emergency Grant. See the financial assistance section of our website for more information at www.victimsupport.org.nz.

Who can be a support person?

The 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 the survivor and one support person. The support person must be 18yrs+.

A support person could be a parent, other family member, trusted friend, or professional support person (if they are not already eligible for government funding for supporting sexual violence survivors in court).



How to apply

Survivors can ask their Victim Support Worker, Court Victim Advisor, or a sexual violence 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**

CONTACT

Victim Support

Get Help: 0800 VICTIM (0800 842 846)
enquiries@victimsupport.org.nz
victimsupport.org.nz


Victim Support
Manaaki Tāngata

