

## Family Victims

A fact sheet about support available to families of homicide victims in NSW

Victims Services can assist with counselling, payment of funeral expenses and financial support for family members of homicide victims.

### How to apply

There is no time limit to apply for counselling.

Claims for financial support must be lodged within two years after the death of the homicide victim. A child must apply before they turn 20 years of age.

When we receive your application for financial support we will access relevant police records from the NSW Police.

We will send you written notification of the decision.

Please provide your bank details if you are applying for financial assistance and/or a recognition payment.

To apply for support, complete the Application for support for family victims.

### Important information

Further information is available on our website. If you have questions about your eligibility to apply, have difficulty downloading any forms or would like assistance with your application please contact Victims Services.

### Travel

#### Travel - Day

If you need to travel for the funeral or justice-related event you may receive an allowance for meals, snacks and incidentals. The allowance is based on the NSW Crown Employees Meal, Travelling and other Allowances rates.

In addition to this allowance receipts for parking, public transport and taxi may also be considered.

#### Travel - Overnight

If you need to travel a long distance to attend the funeral or justice-related event you may receive an allowance based on the NSW Crown Employees Meal, Travelling and other Allowances rate. This amount covers accommodation, all meals/snacks and incidentals including parking, public transport and taxi costs.

#### Fuel

If you travel using your own vehicle you can request reimbursement of fuel at the business rate under the NSW Crown Employees Meal, Travelling and other Allowances rates. Your distance is calculated from where you start your trip to the destination.

#### Flights

We can also consider payment of flights for immediate family members.

Note: Accommodation deposits, vehicle rental bonds, alcohol, cigarettes and any damage to property are not covered.

### Who should I contact to find out more?

**Victims Access Line:** 1800 633 063 | **Aboriginal Contact Line:** 1800 019 123

**Business hours:** Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (excluding public holidays)

**Email:** [vs@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vs@dcj.nsw.gov.au) **Website:** [www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au)

The table summarises the different types of support that you may get and what information we need from you for each support type.

PURPOSE	BENEFITS	WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?	WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO GIVE?	HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE TO CLAIM?
<b>Type of support: Counselling</b>				
To help in your recovery	Up to 22 hours of counselling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family victims eg. spouse, de facto partner, child, siblings, parents or guardians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application form</li> <li>Government issued ID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No time limit applies</li> </ul>
<b>Type of support: Financial assistance for immediate needs</b>				
To help pay for things you need urgently to be safe and healthy because of the violent crime	<p>You may get up to \$5,000 to help pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>relocation</li> <li>security upgrade</li> <li>crime scene clean up</li> <li>travel/accommodation to attend funeral</li> </ul> <p>You may get up to \$9,500 to help pay for the funeral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family victims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application form</li> <li>Government issued ID</li> <li>Evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim</li> <li>Copies of tax invoices or receipts for costs you are claiming</li> <li>A description of how each cost relates directly to the violent crime</li> <li>A travel expense declaration form if claiming for travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No later than two years after the death is established as a homicide</li> <li>By the age of 20 years old if the family member is a child</li> </ul>
<b>Type of support: Financial assistance for justice-related expenses</b>				
To help pay for some costs of attending court or coronial proceedings	<p>You may get up to \$5,000 to help pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attending court and coronial meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family victims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application form</li> <li>Government issued ID</li> <li>Evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim</li> <li>Copies of tax invoices or receipts for costs you are claiming</li> <li>A description of how each cost relates directly to the violent crime</li> <li>A travel expense declaration form if claiming for travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No later than two years after the death is established as a homicide</li> <li>By the age of 20 years old if the family member is a child</li> </ul>
<b>Type of support: Recognition payment</b>				
To acknowledge that a violent crime has been committed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$15,000 for financially dependent family victim or children under 18 at the time of death</li> <li>\$7,500 for parents, step-parents or guardians, current spouses, or de facto partners of a homicide victim</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financially dependent family victims and children under 18 years at the time of death</li> <li>Parents, step-parents or guardians, current spouses, or de facto partners of a homicide victim</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application form</li> <li>Government issued ID</li> <li>Evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim</li> <li>Evidence of financial dependency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No later than two years after the death is established as a homicide</li> <li>By the age of 20 years old if the family member is a child</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> If the violent crime directly resulted in the death of a victim, the two year time period commences from the date it was confirmed the death resulted from the act of violence.