



LGBTIQ Domestic & Family Violence and Victims Support

This fact sheet is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic or family violence. It provides information about accessing Victims Services.*

WHAT IS VICTIMS SUPPORT?

If you have been a victim of domestic or family violence and have sustained a physical or psychological injury, you may be entitled to victims support from Victims Services. Victims Services work with victims of domestic or family violence to assist with getting their lives back on track. You can seek:

- Counselling up to 22 hours
- Payment for immediate needs, such as:
 - Moving – bonds, removalists and accommodation costs,
 - Security – changing locks, fitting alarms and screens,
 - Urgent medical and dental treatment;
- Financial assistance for things like loss of earnings and medical treatment; and
- A recognition payment.

Parents, step-parents and guardians who are caring for a child who is a primary victim and was under the age of 18 at the time of the act of violence can apply for financial support to help you to take care of your child’s needs.

WHAT IS A RECOGNITION PAYMENT?

A recognition payment is a lump sum payment that acknowledges the injury and trauma you have suffered. There are four categories of recognition payments, based on the offence and the nature of the violent act. These are:

Category	Recognition Payment
A. Homicide (for surviving family members)	\$7,500 / \$15,000
B. Sexual assault involving serious bodily injury, multiple offenders or use of an offensive weapon; pattern of sexual or indecent assault; attempted sexual assault involving violence	\$10,000
C. Sexual assault; attempted sexual assault involving serious bodily injury; grievous bodily harm; pattern of physical assault of a child	\$5,000
D. Indecent assault; attempted sexual assault involving violence; robbery; assault	\$1,500

TIME LIMITS AND EVIDENCE REQUIRED

The forms of victims support that you can receive as a victims of domestic or family violence may depend on when you make an application and the evidence you have. Victims Services require victims of crime to report the incident to the police and to seek treatment for injuries from medical services. Victims Services may access police, government and medical records to obtain evidence supporting your claim.

There is no time limit in applying for a claim to Victim Services for victims of sexual assault that were under 18 at the time of the incident



The following table summarises the time limits that apply to the various forms of support and the evidence you will need to support your claim:

Support	Time Limit	Evidence Required
Information =, referrals and advice	No time Limit	None.
Counselling	No time limit.	A simple application form available on the Victims Services website and can be submitted through the website.
Financial assistance of up to \$5,000 for immediate needs	No later than two years from the incident. Your application will generally be finalised within 15 working days. If the act of violence occurred as a child, you have two years of turning 18 years of age to lodge a claim. There no time limit for victims of sexual assault if they were under 18 at the time the incident(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A police or medical report/certificate; and • Proof of expenses: e.g. receipts, quotes, invoices.
Financial assistance of up to \$30,000 for economic loss to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of earnings up to \$20,000 • Up to \$5,000 for out of pocket expenses, including loss of clothing • Medical and dental expenses not considered 'immediate needs' • Reasonable travel expenses • If you were unemployed at the time of the crime, up to \$5,000 assistance with cost of living and other expenses including rent assistance, furniture, child care and household bills • Up to \$5,000 for expenses associated with court proceedings (does not include legal practitioner's fees) 	No later than two years from the incident. Your application will generally be finalised within 3 months. If the act of violence occurred as a child, you have two years of turning 18 years of age to lodge a claim for financial assistance. There no time limit for victims of sexual assault if they were under 18 at the time the incident(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report from the police or a government agency, such as DOCS or NSW Housing; • A medical, dental or counselling report as evidence of injury (physical or psychological); and • Proof of expenses: e.g. receipts, quotes, invoices.
Recognition payment	If you have been a victim of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, you must lodge your claim not later than 10 years from the offence. Otherwise, the limit is two years. Your application will generally be finalised within 6-12 months. If the act of violence occurred as a child, you have two years of turning 18 years of age to lodge a claim for recognition payment. If the claim is for domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse offences, it must be claimed within 10 years of turning 18 for children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report from the police or a government agency; and • A medical, dental or counselling report as evidence of injury (physical or psychological).



	<p>There no time limit for victims of sexual assault if they were under 18 at the time the incident(s)</p>	
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HOW TO LODGE A CLAIM

You can call the Victims Access Line on 1800 633 063 or visit the Victims Services website at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs to find out more information and access application forms.

Aboriginal victims can call the Aboriginal Contact Line on 1800 019 123. Victims Services may allocate you a support coordinator to assist you with making your claim and getting evidence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Safe Relationships Project (SRP) - Inner City Legal Centre

The SRP is a state-wide domestic and family violence court support and legal advice service for LGBTIQ people.

www.iclc.org.au/srp/ T: (02) 9332 1966 or 1800 244 481 E: srp@iclc.org.au

Victims Services

www.victimsservices.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vss/vs_index.html T: 1800 633 063

This information is current to 26 September 2018 and reflects the law in New South Wales. It is general information and is no substitute for legal advice tailored to your particular circumstances. For assistance, contact the ICLC on (02) 9332 1966