

Guidance for funding on Regulatory investigations and prosecutions

WorkSafe New Zealand, Maritime for New Zealand or Civil Aviation Authority

Updated 1 July 2026

The Victim Assistance Scheme (VAS) funds victims of serious crime to help with some of the financial burden of being a victim and helps victims take part in the justice system.

Support includes counselling/rongoā and financial assistance for travel to court.

VAS is administered by Victim Support on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

Please note: Funding may differ depending on individual circumstances based on needs assessment outcomes, incident details, and reporting dates. **Victim Support makes Victim Assistance Scheme payments twice a week.**

Eligibility

This funding may be available for people affected by a fatality or serious physical injury linked to an investigation or prosecution by:

- WorkSafe New Zealand
- Maritime New Zealand
- the Civil Aviation Authority

The incident must have happened in New Zealand on or after 1 July 2020.

The funding may apply if:

- the prosecution happened between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2026, or
- the investigation or prosecution starts on or after 1 July 2026.

This funding does not apply if:

- the incident happened before 1 July 2020, or
- the prosecution started before 1 July 2021.

Available funding

Travel and Accommodation Funding

The travel assistance funding helps victims/survivors and their support person to travel to attend court proceedings. Funding limits apply.

- **Fatalities**
Up to 6 people (whānau/family, support people)
- **Serious injuries (physical)**
Primary victim and one support person

The support person must be 18 or older.

A support person could be a parent, other family member, trusted friend, or professional support person.

Victim Support makes all travel and accommodation bookings.

Counselling/Rongoā

- **Fatalities**
Up to 30 sessions of counselling/rongoā combined with an approved counsellor/rongoā practitioner for whānau, close friends, and prosecution witnesses
- **Serious injuries (physical)**
Up to 15 sessions of counselling/rongoā combined with an approved counsellor/rongoā practitioner for primary victims and prosecution witnesses.

For regulatory offences, victims, the family or whānau of victims and witnesses can access counselling/rongoā funding following notification of an investigation after 1 July 2026.

Counselling/Rongoā support is only available if the victims, the family or whānau of victims, or witnesses **do not qualify for ACC or employer funded counselling/rongoā.**

How to apply

You can ask for help to make a VAS application from:

- your Support Worker
- the prosecuting agency supporting you

You can contact Victim Support 24/7 on **0800 842 846.**

If your application includes travel, please apply as early as possible to make sure travel can be arranged in time.

www.victimsupport.org.nz