



Victim Assistance Scheme (VAS)*



Helping victims of serious crime by contributing to costs related to the crime, and the justice process.

* Eligibility guide only. Funding may differ depending on individual circumstances based on needs assessment outcomes, incident details, and reporting dates.

Administered by Victim Support on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

Updated 1 July 2026

	Grants/Funding	Counselling/Rongoā	Travel and accommodation	Court attendance allowance	Crime scene grant
Homicide	Lump sum \$7,500 to a representative of the deceased's whānau/family for immediate financial costs.	Up to 30 hours per affected person counselling/rongoā combined (whānau/family, friends, witnesses, and first on scene).	Funding available (with limits) for up to 6 people (whānau/family, support people) to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.	\$150/day or \$75/half day per person for up to 5 people (whānau/family, support people) who have attended court hearings, if they have lost earnings through attendance.	Up to \$2,000 funding may be available where a Police cordon has been put in place, the Police confirm they are investigating a crime, the victim has been displaced, and/or commercial cleaning/blessing is necessary before returning.
Death by criminal act	Lump sum \$7,500 to a representative of the deceased's whānau/family for immediate financial costs.	Up to 30 hours per affected person counselling/rongoā combined (whānau/family, friends, witnesses, and first on scene).	Funding available (with limits) for up to 6 people (whānau/family, support people) to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other other justice sector proceedings.	\$150/day or \$75/half day per person for up to 5 people (whānau/family, support people) who have attended court hearings, if they have lost earnings through attendance.	
Sexual violence	Lump sum \$1,000 to a primary victim to assist with the aftermath of a crime that has been reported to the Police. Available for incidents reported to police on or after 1 July 2023. Supplementary funding up to \$2,500 may also be available to a primary victim to assist with costs associated with safety. The counselling/rongoā combined hours would come from within the Supplementary funding. Available for incidents on or after 1 July 2023.	Up to 10 hours counselling/rongoā combined may be available from within the Supplementary funding (only if ACC counselling delayed).	Funding available (with limits) for the primary victim plus up to 3 people (whānau/family, support people) to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.	\$150/day or \$75/half day per person for primary victim plus up to 3 people (whānau/family, support people) who have attended court hearings, if they have lost income through attendance.	Up to \$2,000 funding may be available where a Police cordon has been put in place, the Police confirm they are investigating a crime, the victim has been displaced, and/or commercial cleaning/blessing is necessary before returning.
Serious crimes	Up to \$2,500 funding to contribute to the safety and immediate financial needs of a primary victim. Must be claimed within 6 months of the incident.	Up to 15 hours counselling/rongoā combined are available for a primary victim, for incidents on or after 1 July 2023.	Funding available (with limits) for the primary victim plus up to 3 people (whānau/family, support people) to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.	\$150/day or \$75/half day per person for primary victim plus up to 3 support people (whānau/family, support people) who have attended court hearings, if they have lost income through attendance.	Up to \$2,000 funding may be available where a Police cordon has been put in place, the Police confirm they are investigating a crime, the victim has been displaced, and/or commercial cleaning/blessing is necessary before returning.
Regulatory agencies (WorkSafe New Zealand, Maritime New Zealand, Civil Aviation Authority)		Fatalities Up to 30 hours per affected person counselling/rongoā combined for whānau/family, close friends, and prosecution witnesses. Serious physical injuries Up to 15 hours per affected person counselling/rongoā combined for primary victim(s) and prosecution witnesses.	Fatalities Funding available (with limits) for up to 6 people (whānau/family, support people) to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings. Serious physical injuries Funding available (with limits) for the primary victim plus 1 support person to attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.		

Who is eligible?

For the purposes of the grants, 'victim' is used to refer to the primary victim of a crime, i.e. the person against whom the crime was committed. Victim Support will determine whether you are eligible for the Victim Assistance Scheme based on criteria established by the Ministry of Justice.

Travel conditions

Victim Support makes travel and accommodation bookings.

How do victims apply?

Through Victim Support – talk to your Support Worker or call us on 0800 842 846.


Manaaki Tāngata
Victim Support

0800 842 846
victimsupport.org.nz