

# Guidance on funding available to victims of serious crime

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 grants, counselling/rongoā, and financial assistance for travel to, and attendance at, 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

Eligibility for this funding is limited to certain types of serious crimes based on their categorisation in the Crimes Act.

Examples include aggravated robbery, kidnapping and grievous/serious assault.

**Only Primary Victims – the person to whom the crime directly happened – are eligible.**

## Funding available for primary victims of Serious Crime

### Serious Crime Funding

Up to \$2,500 may be available to contribute to **safety and immediate** financial needs for a primary victim of serious crime.

**Funding must be claimed within six months of the date of the crime.**

### Counselling/Rongoā

Primary victims of serious crime may be able to receive up to 15 hours of counselling/rongoā combined, for incidents that occurred on or after 1 July 2023.

## Travel & Accommodation Funding

Funding may be available, with limits, to help with travel and accommodation costs for:

- the primary victim
- up to three whānau, family members, or support people

This can help people attend trials, sentencing, hearings, and other justice sector proceedings.

Victim Support makes all travel and accommodation bookings.

Please apply as early as possible to make sure travel can be arranged in time.

Please note that travel for prosecution witnesses is administered by NZ Police or The Crown. Read more [here](#).

## Court Attendance Allowance

A court attendance allowance may be available for those who lose income because they are attending court. This might include:

- the primary victim
- up to three whānau, family members, or support people

**\$150 for a full day per person**

**\$75 for a half day per person**

**Support people must be 18 years or older.**

Please note that prosecution witnesses are paid under the *Witnesses and Interpreters Fees Regulations 1974*.

### **Crime Scene Funding**

Up to \$2,000 may be available where a police cordon has been put in place, the police confirm they are investigating a crime and the victim has been displaced.

### **How to apply**

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

- your Support Worker
- the 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](http://www.victimsupport.org.nz)