



VICTIM SUPPORT

ACT Human
Rights Commission

Financial Assistance Scheme



Easy English 2024

Hard Words



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the hard word is in **blue**
- we will write what the hard word means.



You can get help with this book.

You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what it says
- find more information.



What is the Financial Assistance Scheme?



The Financial Assistance Scheme is money we give you when you are a victim of a **violent crime**.

A violent crime is when someone breaks the law and



- hurts you very badly



- does something very bad to you

- makes you feel very bad



- causes a person to die.



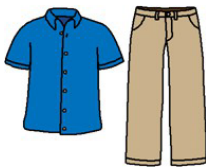
You can also be a victim of a violent crime if you are a **witness**.

This is when you **see** the crime happen.

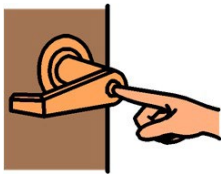


The money is to help pay for goods and services you may need because of the crime.

The money can be used to pay for goods like

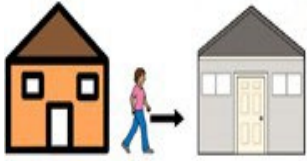


- clothes or things damaged by the crime



- things to make your home safe like new locks on doors.

The money can be used for **services** like



- help to move home if your home is **not** safe.

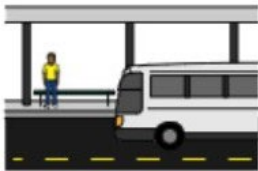


- doctors and dentists



- counselling

- cleaning



- travel to court.

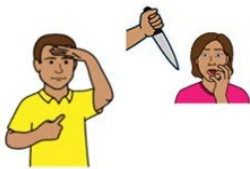
Who can apply?

You can apply for financial assistance if:



July 1983						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

- the crime happened in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
- the crime happened on or after 1 July 1983.
- you were hurt by the violent crime
- you were hurt because you witnessed a **homicide**.



A **homicide** is when a person is killed by another person.



- the person who died because of the homicide is your family member, like your

- parent

- sibling

- child

- partner

- wife or husband



- you paid for the funeral of a person who died because of the homicide.

- you can still apply if the person who did the crime has **not** been



- **charged**

Charged is when the police say someone has broken the law

or

- **convicted**

Convicted is when the court says the person broke the law.



A police report is usually needed to apply.



You do **not** have to tell the police about the crime if you do **not** want to.



We can still help you.

Recognition Payment



A **Recognition payment** is money we pay you.

It says we know a violent crime happened to you.



To get the recognition payment you must have told the police about the crime.



There are rules who can get this payment.



Not all victims can get this payment.

How to apply

To get financial assistance you need to make an **application**.



An application is a form you fill out.

The form gives us information about you.



We have **volunteers** who can help you.



A volunteer is a person who gives their time for free.



Our volunteers have been trained to help you.

They understand that it can be a stressful time.

You can get the application form from



our website at

www.hrc.act.gov.au/victim-support

or



call us on

1800 822 272

or

(02) 6205 2222

or



email us

FASvsact@act.gov.au

Send **completed** forms to

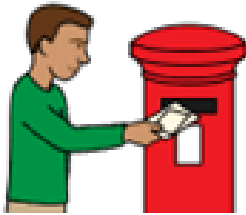


- email

FASvsact@act.gov.au

or

- post to



ACT Financial Assistance Scheme

Victim Support ACT

GPO Box 158

Canberra City, ACT 2601

What happens when you apply



We will

- write to you to let you know we have your application



- read your application



- check if we need more information

- from you

- from other **service providers**



A service provider does work to help people. Like a therapist or support worker.

This will help us decide

- if you can get paid



- what you can be paid for.



This process will take time.



You can contact us with any questions about your application.



We will contact you when we make a decision.

Other support



Victim Services help people affected by crimes that happen in the ACT.

We can provide



- free counselling



- information about the criminal justice system

- court support



- advocacy to help you access your rights as a victim of crime.



Victim Support ACT can help anyone.

If you are First Nations



- you can ask to speak to our **Aboriginal Liaison Officer** when you call us.



If you are a migrant, refugee, or asylum seeker

- we have a **Multicultural Officer**.



For information in other languages, we can help you with an interpreter.

You can contact us in different ways

Call us



1800 822 272

or

(02) 6205 2222

By letter



Financial Assistance Scheme

GPO Box 158

Canberra City ACT 2600



Email us

FASvsact@act.gov.au



Come and visit us at

56 Allara St

Canberra City



You can also visit our website at

www.victimsupport.act.gov.au

Advocacy for Inclusion made the Easy English Resource

Contact details

2.02 Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: 6257 4005

Email: info@advocacyforinclusion.org

ABN: 90 670 934 099

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