

**Do I have to attend a Hearing?**

Applications may be determined via a hearing or if you elect, in your absence. However, not all applications are suitable to be determined in your absence. In some circumstances, a hearing may be required. If required an interpreter can be arranged upon request for the hearing of the application.

**What if I am unhappy with the final determination of the Tribunal?**

You have the right to apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to review the decision.

This application must be made within 28 days of you receiving notification of the Tribunal's decision. A fee is applicable on the VCAT application.

For further information please contact the General List at VCAT on 9628 9755.

**What other services are available to victims of crime?**

You should call the **Victim Support Agency** on 1300 659 419. They provide a range of services and assistance to victims of crime.

**For further  
information and  
assistance  
please contact your  
local Court**

**Website Address:  
[www.vocat.vic.gov.au](http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au)**

**Victims of  
Crime  
Assistance  
Tribunal**

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**Secondary  
Victim  
Applicants**

### **Who can apply as a Secondary Victim?**

- A person who is present at the scene of an act of violence and who is injured as a direct result of witnessing the act.
- A person who is injured as a direct result of subsequently becoming aware of an act of violence and he/she is the parent or guardian of the primary victim who is aged under 18 years at the time of the act.

### **How do I apply?**

You must complete an application form which can be obtained from your local court or from the website ([www.vocat.vic.gov.au](http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au)). If the applicant is a child, the application can be made by a relative or other suitable person on the child's behalf. Any award that is made will be held in trust, usually until they are 18 years old.

### **Can I apply more than once?**

No. You are only eligible to apply for/receive assistance for a single act of violence in one capacity.

### **How long do I have to make an application to the Tribunal?**

An application must be made within 2 years of the date of the act of violence. If the application is lodged out of time, an application for an extension of time must be completed outlining the reasons for the delay.

### **Where do I get an application for extension of time?**

The Tribunal will automatically forward you the application for extension of time when your application for assistance is registered.

### **What assistance am I eligible to receive?**

Up to \$50,000 is available for a combination of the following:

- Counselling expenses
- Medical expenses
- Loss of Earnings of up to 20,000 for a period of not more than 2 years from the date of the act of violence.
- In exceptional circumstances, expenses to assist recovery

### **Am I eligible for expenses to assist recovery?**

Yes. An application for reasonable expenses to assist in your recovery may be made if you are under the age of 18 and have witnessed an act of violence. In exceptional circumstances the parent or guardian of the primary victim under the age of 18 may be eligible.

### **Do I need proof of exceptional circumstances?**

The Tribunal will advise you in writing if further material is required to be filed. Always read correspondence from the Tribunal carefully and seek assistance if you are unsure of what is required.

### **Can an eye witness apply for expenses to assist recovery?**

No. The legislation does not allow for that. Only those mentioned in the categories above may apply

### **Do I need a solicitor?**

No. You can make the application for assistance by yourself or be represented by a solicitor. The Law Institute can provide you with a list of names of solicitors in your local area. Their Contact telephone number is 9607-9311. Your solicitor's costs will be paid if your application is successful.