

# Victims of Crime Assistance in Tasmania

In Tasmania you have 3 years from the date of the offence to lodge a claim for Victims of Crime Assistance. This time can be extended in "special circumstances," i.e. if there has been family violence. If you were a child at the time of the offence, an application must be lodged within three years of reaching the age of 18.

To extend the time you must complete an Extension of Time Application.

## **Who can apply?**

You can apply for Victims of Crime Assistance if you have suffered a physical or psychological injury as a result of a violent crime. The victim of the crime (primary victim), a secondary victim (such as someone who has witnessed a violent crime, or a parent of a child victim) or a related victim such as a spouse, partner or immediate family member can apply.

Children under 18 can apply, but the application must be lodged by an adult, such as a parent or guardian.

## **How to apply?**

You need to fill in an application form and attach supporting information such as medical reports and police reports. Victims of Crime Assistance does not cover loss or damage to property. The offence should have been reported to the police, but compensation can still be awarded if it has not. Give as much detail as you can about the offence as you can; how it has affected you, information about the offender and any police reports.

The maximum amount that can be claimed is \$30 000. If an award is made to a child, the amount may be paid to a Trustee to manage the money.

It can take up to four months for your application to be processed. If you have a current court case you may need to wait for the outcome of the case in court before compensation can be awarded.

## **Hearing**

Once the application has been finalised there will be a hearing with the Commissioner. This hearing is for you to explain how the crime has affected

your life. The offender will not attend. You can bring a support person with you. If you do not want to attend the hearing, the Commissioner may be able to assess the application on the papers if there is sufficient supporting material. If your application is not accepted you may be able to have a contested hearing.

**Contacts:**

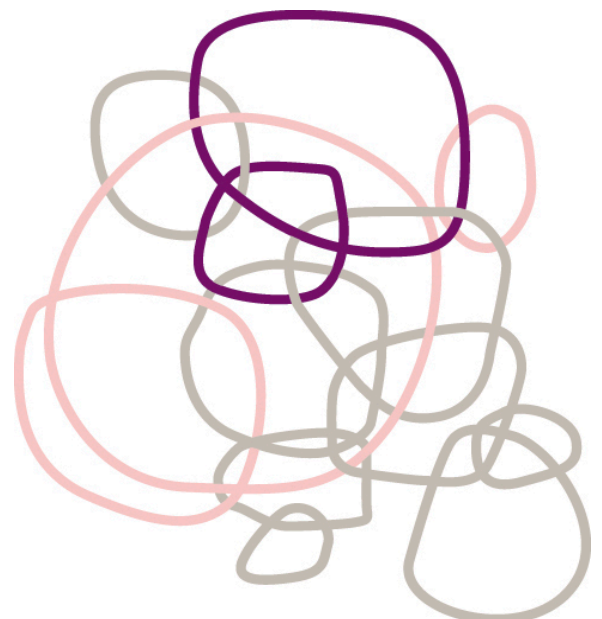
- Victims of Crime Service: **1300 300 238**
- Victims Assistance Unit: **6233 5002** or **1300 663 773**
- Women's Legal Service: **1800 682 468**

**Website:**

<http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/victims>

*"Victims of Crime Assistance in Tasmania" is intended to give general information. Whilst we have made every effort to ensure the contents of this publication are accurate at the time of publication the law and services do change. Legal and service exactness is not possible in a publication of this nature. This publication should not be used as a substitute for legal advice.*

*Women's Legal Service (Tasmania) does not accept any responsibility for any loss, damage or injury, financial or otherwise, suffered by any person acting on information contained in this publication or omitted from it.*



February 2013