

CVSU FACT SHEET

Immediate Financial Assistance

What immediate financial assistance can the Crime Victims Services Unit (CVSU) provide to victims of crime?

If you have suffered or will suffer financial loss because of a violent act that happened in the Northern Territory, the CVSU may be able to award you immediate financial assistance.

We don't arrange medical treatment for injuries. For medical treatment, see your GP.

Who can apply for immediate financial assistance?

You can apply for immediate financial assistance if you have been the victim of a violent crime and suffered an injury (including physical injuries or a psychological disorder), or if you have been the victim of a sexual assault. You can also claim if you have been the witness or rescuer to a violent crime and suffered an injury, or if you are a dependant or family member of a victim of a violent crime. The crime must have occurred in the Northern Territory.

What can I claim immediate financial assistance for?

Only financial loss can be claimed in an application for immediate financial assistance. A separate primary, secondary or family application must be completed to receive any additional award for your actual injuries (refer to CVSU Fact Sheet - General).

Immediate financial assistance may be paid for:

- Loss of earnings or wages (does not include sick leave used, but may include recreational leave);
- Loss of clothing and/or personal effects lost or damaged during the violent act – this only includes items you were wearing or carrying at the time of the violent act, such as spectacles or a mobile phone;
- Medical and/or counselling costs; and
- In exceptional circumstances, costs that will assist your recovery from the violent act, such as for relocation or improved security.

If a violent act resulted in the death of a close family member, or a person on whom you are financially dependent, you may be eligible to claim for funeral expenses you had to pay.

What information or documents do I need to provide?

Financial loss must be as a direct result of a violent act and must be supported by evidence that you may like to provide along with your application form. Evidence includes receipts, invoices, quotes or other proof of expenses you have paid or must pay. If you are claiming loss of earnings, please also provide: employer details; copies of pay slips for the four weeks before the assault(s); and medical certificates proving your inability to work.

You will also need to provide your bank details and ensure that you complete and sign the authority on the application form, so that the CVSU can request police and medical records on your behalf.

How much immediate financial assistance will I receive?

The maximum amount payable in immediate assistance is \$5,000.00. If your financial loss exceeds \$5,000.00, you can claim further financial loss resulting from the violent act in a primary, secondary or family application. In most cases, these applications will take longer to process than the immediate application. The total maximum award for financial loss for a violent act is \$10,000.00, less any amount paid as an immediate award.

How long will it take before I receive immediate financial assistance?

Applications for immediate financial assistance can take several months or longer to process, depending on the urgency of the situation and when all required records (eg police reports, medical report, invoices etc.) are received by the CVSU. If there is an urgent need for immediate financial assistance, the CVSU will consider the circumstances of the claim and may prioritise the application, if necessary.

How do I apply for immediate financial assistance?

Application forms are available online at www.nt.gov.au/law/crime. You can also contact the CVSU by email at cvsu.doj@nt.gov.au or freecall 1800 460 363 or on (08) 8924 4080 interstate.

Who decides whether I am eligible for immediate financial assistance?

The Director of CVSU makes decisions regarding awards for immediate financial assistance. These decisions are final and are not subject to any review or appeal.

An applicant may also, however, be eligible to apply for financial assistance as a primary, secondary or family victim. An Assessor may consider the financial losses an applicant has claimed as part of that application.

How can I get free immediate counselling?

Free crisis counselling for victims of crime is available from CatholicCare NT. Please call them on 1800 899 855 should you wish to make an appointment.