

Gosnells Community Legal Centre Inc

VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is the Victim Compensation Program?*

The Victim Compensation Program is a legal service offered by the Gosnells Community Legal Centre (GCLC) to assist victims of crime to apply for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

2. *How do I qualify for assistance?*

If you are a low income earner you may approach GCLC for assistance with your application.

3. *Will the service cost me anything?*

GCLC offers a free initial consultation. At the first meeting the solicitor will let you know if you have a claim for compensation and if you do have a claim the solicitor will advise you of any fees that are payable. Fees charged by GCLC are generally lower than those charged by private lawyers.

4. *Do I need a lawyer to make a claim?*

There are some situations when you should seek legal advice, such as:

- You have suffered long term domestic / sexual abuse

- You are claiming for loss of financial support or loss of earnings
- You wish to claim mental or nervous shock
- You or the offender are not happy with the Assessor's decision

5. *I'm under 18 years can I still make a claim?*

No, but either of your parents or your guardian can make an application on your behalf.

6. *Do I have to report the offence to the police?*

The offence must be reported to the police as soon as possible and if it is not reported you must have very good reasons for not doing so. You must also assist the police in their investigations of the offence.

Even if no one is convicted of the offence, it is possible to make a claim and receive compensation.

7. *How much will I get if I make a claim for compensation?*

The amount of compensation awarded to you will depend on the severity of your physical or mental injuries, the losses

suffered by you and the date on which the offence took place.

The maximum that can be awarded for any one offence that takes place on or after 1 January 2004 is \$75,000.

8. *What can I do if I'm not happy with the amount of the compensation?*

You can appeal to the District Court within 21 days from the date of the Award of compensation.

GCLC is not currently able to assist you with the appeal process.

Contact

If you would like more information or to receive an initial free consultation you can ring (08) 9398 1455 to make an appointment to see the Victim Compensation Solicitor.

Funding for the set-up of the Victim Compensation Program is provided by the Criminal Property Confiscation Grants Program

Gosnells Community Legal Centre is one of over 200
Community Legal Centres in Australia that form the
National Association of Community Legal Centres. Our
mission and our work practices are based on the belief
in the principles of human rights and social justice. We
are a not-for-profit, non-government community based
organisation.

All our staff offer, confidential, nonjudgmental
information, advice and assistance to low income
earners.

**Gosnells Community Legal Centre
Inc.**

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Centre Hours
9.30am-12.30pm/1.30pm-3.30pm
Tuesday-Friday
(Closed Mondays)

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Program**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**

We are dedicated to promoting social
justice and equity by providing services
which support and empower people to
resolve their legal, social and economic
issues