

What is VOCAT?

VOCAT, or the [Victims Of Crime Assistance Tribunal](#), can assist you to recover from a violent act by offering financial aid for related costs.

Step 1: How can it help me?

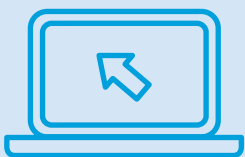
- It is an acknowledgement from the community that you have suffered as a result of this act of violence.
- VOCAT may not cover all of your costs but will aim to assist you.
- Applying is free and confidential.
- Your partner/offender won't be notified of your application or its contents.



Step 2: Who can apply?

- You have been injured as a result of an act of violence. This can include physical assault, sexual assault or mental injury, or making an existing injury worse. Children or other family members who are impacted can also apply.
- The act of violence occurred in Victoria in the last two years.
- You have made a report to the police about the act of violence, and cooperated with their processes. The alleged offender does not have to have been charged with the crime.
- If you have not made a report to the police you will need to complete a [statutory declaration](#).

Step 3: VOCAT application – steps



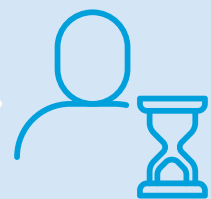
1. Submit your [Application for Assistance](#) to the [Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal](#).



2. Gather evidence to support your application. The types of documents you might need are in the attached checklist.



3. Submit your [Statement of Claim](#) and evidence to VOCAT (this needs to be submitted within three months of lodging your Application for Assistance – see Step 1).



4. The Tribunal will make a decision. This can take around six months (but this varies). This decision is based around the documents you provide, usually you won't have to go to court.

The material in this publication is a general guide only. It is not legal advice. Please seek legal advice about your specific situation.