In Victoria, victims of crime who suffer a physical or psychological injury as a consequence of an act of violence can apply to the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) for compensation.

**Primary victims**
A primary victim is a person who is injured:
» as a direct result of an act of violence
» while trying to arrest someone whom he or she believes has committed an act of violence
» while trying to prevent an act of violence
» while trying to aid someone else who is the victim of an act of violence.

A primary victim can apply for compensation of up to $60 000. Compensation can be for:
» medical expenses
» loss of earnings (up to $20 000 for up to two years after the act of violence)
» reasonable counselling expenses
» loss of clothing or damage to clothing worn at the time of the incident
» safety related expenses
» in exceptional circumstances, expenses incurred to aid recovery from the act of violence
» special financial assistance for pain and suffering (up to $10 000).

The amount of special financial assistance for pain and suffering that VOCAT may award depends on the type of crime committed and the nature of the injury suffered.

**Secondary victims**
A secondary victim is a person who is injured:
» as a direct result of witnessing an act of violence
» as a result of becoming aware of an act of violence where the person is a parent or guardian of a primary victim who is under 18 years of age.

A secondary victim of crime can apply for financial assistance up to $50 000. Financial assistance can be for:
» medical expenses
» loss of earnings in exceptional circumstances (up to $20 000)
» reasonable counselling expenses.

**Related victims**
A related victim is a person who:
» was a close family member of
» was a dependent of, or
» had an intimate personal relationship with, someone who has died as a result of an act of violence.

VOCAT may award up to $50 000 to a related victim for:
» medical expenses
» reasonable counselling expenses
» distress experienced
» other expenses incurred as a consequence of the death, including funeral expenses
» loss of financial support
» in exceptional circumstances, expenses incurred to aid recovery from the act of violence.

**Applying to VOCAT**
An Application for Assistance must be lodged within two years of the act of violence occurring. The Application must be supported by medical evidence for any claimed injury. In order to be successful in a claim, the victim must establish on the balance of probabilities that they have been injured as a consequence of an act of violence.

For further information about VOCAT or to download an application form you can visit [www.vocat.vic.gov.au](http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au).