



Victims Assistance Unit

Guideline 2

Medical Treatments to be Included in Financial Assistance

This guideline is issued pursuant to section 131 of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (the Act) for Government assessors on the exercise of their powers in assessing claims for financial assistance. Nothing in this guideline supersedes or overrides the requirements of the legislation.

1. This guideline deals with the type of medical treatment to be included in a grant of assistance.
2. An assessor should be confident that any grant of assistance for medical expenses will assist the applicant's recovery from their injuries.
3. Medical expenses cover medical treatments or ambulance services. Medical treatment includes but is not limited to, treatment by a health practitioner or treatment received in a hospital.
4. Medical treatment that will be funded through a grant of financial assistance must be generally accepted as having a medical or scientific basis and should be supported by the applicant's treating health practitioner (as defined in the Act) as treatments necessary as a direct result of the act of violence.
5. Where necessary, the assessor should require the applicant to undergo an examination (see section 73 of the Act) by a health practitioner nominated by the assessor. The purpose of the examination is for the health practitioner to provide a report to the assessor, which may include a report on the medical treatment required by the applicant.

6. Reimbursement for medical reports is dependent on a grant of assistance. An assessor needs to take every step to ensure, as far as practicable, a health practitioner is not requested to provide a report if it is unlikely that a grant of assistance will be made in relation to the application.

John Sosso
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