



Victims Assistance Unit

Guideline 5

Determining Financial Assistance for Loss or Damage to Clothing

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 how grants of assistance are to be determined for loss or damage to clothing the primary victim was wearing at the time the act of violence occurred.
2. Items to be considered under this component of assistance include clothes, shoes, underwear, hats, helmets, belts and specialist work clothes. It does not include other accessories such as jewellery, optical wear (including sunglasses), or equipment that the primary victim may be carrying at the time of the act of violence. Damage to prescription glasses can be considered under the component of medical expenses.
3. When making an assessment regarding financial assistance for loss or damage to clothing an assessor will request the applicant to provide:
 - a description of the item which may include the make, year of purchase (if known) or approximate age;
 - a description of the nature of the damage; and
 - a receipt or estimate of the item's value.
4. Proof of purchase is required for any claim over \$1,000.

John Sosso
Director-General
Department of Justice and Attorney-General