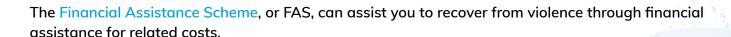
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Women's Legal Centre

What is the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS)?



Step 1: How can FAS help me?

- It is an acknowledgement from the community that you have suffered harm as a result of violence.
- FAS may not cover all of your costs but will aim to assist you.
- Applying is free and confidential.
- The offender will not be notified of your application or its contents.
- There is no need for you to go to court or attend hearings.

Step 2: Who can apply?

- People who have suffered an injury as a result of violence can apply. Violence can include physical assault, sexual assault or family violence. Injury can include mental harm and making an existing injury worse.
- Children and other family members can also apply.
- You can apply if you have made a police report about the violence and cooperated with their processes. It is not necessary that the offender has been charged.
- If no police report was made, a statutory declaration must detail the circumstances why.

The time limit you have to apply depends on the age of the victim and the type of violence:

Age of victim	Type of violence	Time limit to apply
Adults (over 18 years old)	Sexual or family violence	10 years
Adults (over 18 years old)	All other violence	3 years
Children (under 18 years old)	Child abuse or family violence	No time limit
Children (under 18 years old)	All other violence	Before turning 21 years old

Step 3: Making an application



1. Decide what to claim.

Consider the ways
in which the violence
has impacted your life
and what would help
you to recover.



2. Gather supporting documents.
For further guidance, see the 'Documents you might need' resource.



3. Submit an application for the Financial

Assistance Scheme within the time limit.



4. The FAS will make a decision based on the evidence provided. You won't need 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.



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