Help for victims of violence

Nobody should have to experience violence. If you have, there is help available.

Victim Assist is a scheme to help people recover after experiencing violence.

Violence is when a person hurts another person. It includes:

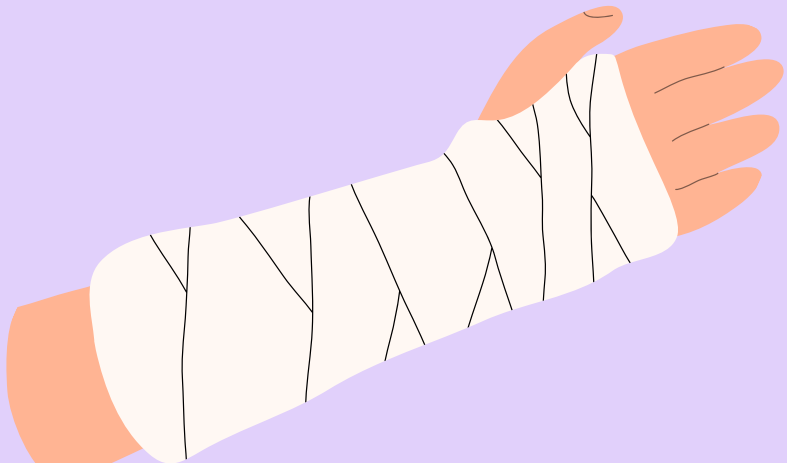
- physical assault
- sexual violence
- threats of violence
- stalking
- domestic and family violence or partner violence

The scheme can help people who are:

- the **primary victim** - the person directly injured, including a child who was directly exposed to domestic and family violence
- a **witness** - a person who saw or heard an act of violence
- a **related victim** - a close family member of a person who was killed by violence
- a **parent secondary victim** - the parent of a child victim

Victim Assist can help you recover with **financial assistance** to pay for things like:

- medical care
- counselling
- time off work



and in some circumstances:

- moving home
- replacing certain damaged items
- upgrading security
- changing schools

The special recognition payment is a **one-off payment** for primary victims that you can use however you like.

These payments depend on the type of violence and injury

In most cases, you will need to report the violence to **the police.** In some **special cases,** you can talk to a doctor, counsellor, psychologist, psychiatrist or domestic violence service instead.

In most cases, to be eligible the violence must have:

- caused an injury
- happened in QLD
- happened in the past three years, with the option to apply for an extension
- been reported to police, with some exemptions

The LGBTI Legal Service can give advice you about your own situation and help you with your application.