

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry into the 2026-27 Budget Estimates

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Committee member:	Aiv PUGLIELLI
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Aiv PUGLIELLI: Okay. Thank you. Are you able to provide the committee, noting we have already said that FAS has issued \$72 million since its commencement in 2024, what amount of funding was reimbursed to victims for psychological support during the 2024–25 financial year?

Bill KYRIAKOPOULOS: Not specifically. There is an interim assistance element of the application that can be applied for ahead of the full application. Interim assistance is up to \$5000 for medical and safety expenses, and that also includes five counselling sessions.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Can you tell us how much was expended from those arrangements for 2024–25?

Bill KYRIAKOPOULOS: I do not have that figure, but I can take it on.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Come back to us on that one, and if you are coming back to us, up to date for this financial year would be great as well, if you can. Thank you.

Question: What was the total amount of financial assistance awarded by the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme in the 2024–25 and 2025–26 financial years for counselling and psychological support?

Response:

Counselling expenses are paid to psychologists, as well as counsellors, mental health social workers and social workers with appropriate accreditation, as well as other mental or allied health professionals providing appropriate therapeutic services.

In 2024–25, **\$1.99 million** was paid by the FAS for counselling expenses. As the FAS commenced operations on 18 November 2024 no counselling, medical and recovery expenses were paid between 1 July and 18 November 2024.

In 2025–26, **\$6.90 million** has been paid by the FAS for counselling expenses (as at 30 April 2026).

Victims of crime can also receive financial assistance for treatment provided by psychologists under the medical expense and recovery expense assistance types. However, data cannot be broken down to isolate payments for psychology services under these assistance types.



The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Victims