



VICTIM
SUPPORT
SERVICE
INCORPORATED

Court Companion Services

Court support for crime victims and their families.

What is the Court Companion program?

For many people who have been the victim of a crime, the prospect of going to court can make them feel anxious and confused.

The Court Companion program provides trained volunteers who can support victims and their families through this often daunting process.

Court Companions are trained volunteers who can:

- Provide information about courts and court processes
- Access safe waiting areas
- Sit with a witness before, during and after giving evidence
- Ensure court officials can locate a witness when needed in court
- Sit with family members during court
- Offer a listening ear in the difficult time immediately after attending court

When can a Court Companion help?

Court Companions can support victims of crime during:

- Court tours
- Criminal court hearings at Magistrates, District and Supreme courts
- Youth Court hearings
- Family Conferences as a support person or victim's representative
- Coroner's Court proceedings
- Other tribunals and inquests where appropriate

Who do I call for Court Companion support?

To arrange a Court Companion you can either contact:

- Your local Victim Support Service

or

- Police
- Investigating Police Officer
- Police Victim Contact Officer
- Police Prosecutor
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)
- Witness Assistance Service (ODPP)
- Coroner's Court Social Worker

Vision

An Australia united in a commitment to safer communities through crime prevention, victim awareness and addressing the impact of crime.

Mission

To champion and promote our vision, and to work in partnership with our clients, communities and service providers to enhance community resilience, improve the well-being of people affected by crime and promote victims' rights.

Other services provided include:

- Professional counselling, advocacy and support
- Support service for those affected by homicide
- Information about victims' rights and Victims of Crime Compensation
- Information about the risks of crime and methods to improve safety
- Support groups for victims of crime
- Assistance with preparation of Victim Impact Statements
- Training seminars for professionals who have contact with victims of crime
- Presentations to community groups
- Advocacy for reform to the criminal justice system
- Resource Centre and free Borrowers' Club

Court Companions are available in most courts throughout the state.

The Court Companion service is free and confidential.