



VICTIM
SUPPORT
SERVICE
INCORPORATED

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers assist in many ways to ensure that victims of crime receive the services they require.

Victim Support Service Inc.

Victim Support Service (VSS) is a community based not-for-profit organisation in South Australia. Qualified staff provide a comprehensive range of services for people who have suffered as a result of a criminal offence. This includes individual crime victims, their families, friends and the wider community.

VSS started as a small support group and has grown into the state-wide service delivery and advocacy body it is today.

- Information, counselling, advocacy and support
- Information and practical advice about victim's rights and criminal injuries compensation
- Support groups
- Court preparation and Court Companion services
- Resource Centre / Library
- Training seminars for professionals
- Presentations to community groups
- Advocacy for reform of the criminal justice system
- Access to networks of supportive agencies

Roles of Volunteers within Victim Support Service

Volunteers within Victim Support Service

Many volunteers contribute to the work undertaken by the service and new helpers, with a range of skills and life experiences, are always welcome. Work undertaken by Volunteers varies across the State and can include the following primary tasks:

Court Preparation and Court Companions

Trained volunteers provide information and support to a victim or prosecution witness in advance of, and/or at the time they are required to appear in court.

They can also accompany family and friends of crime victims who wish to observe the court process.

Court Companions attend criminal hearings with victims in the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts. They can assist crime victims in the Family Court and at Restraining Order Days as well as representing the views of the victims in Youth Justice Family Conferences.

Information and Advice

VSS has a great deal of information and knowledge which volunteers can share with victims of crime. Volunteers may also assist victims who wish to make a written Victim Impact Statement to court concerning the crime.

Public Speakers

Volunteers are trained to provide presentations to community groups and organisations which helps to raise public awareness about the consequences of crime, the needs of victims and the work undertaken by the Victim Support Service.

Office Administration

Volunteers provide invaluable assistance in many areas including:

Assisting with the production of our quarterly newsletter

Helping develop and update our resource folder

General office and reception duties

Assisting in updating our website

Resource Centre

Trained librarians and people with an active interest in information technology work on:

- Media clippings
- Archival storage
- Borrowings