

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 August 2016

VICTIMS OF CRIME ARE 'SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS'

KEY POINTS

- New laws passed by State Parliament will enable the forfeit of assets of repeat, high-level offenders.
- Proceeds from criminal assets, dedicated to crime prevention and offender rehabilitation strategies, should be balanced with a parallel investment in systems and services that support the recovery of victims.

New laws passed by State Parliament will enable the forfeit of assets of repeat, high-level offenders.

Confiscated assets will be kept in a Rehabilitation Fund to be used for crime prevention and offender rehabilitation strategies.

Victim Support Service (VSS) Chief Executive Julian Roffe welcomed funding to strengthen offender rehabilitation strategies, but said the relative level of investment in the rehabilitation of victims bears no comparison to government expenditure on offender management.

"Investment in support for victims has stood still. Just look at this year's State Budget which focused heavily on investment in more prison beds, offender rehabilitation programs and the expansion of home detention orders," Mr Roffe said.

"In contrast, our core funding from the Attorney-General has remained static for over a decade and now represents less than half of our annual budget and less than 1% of the Victims of Crime Fund."

"We support increased investment in offender programs, but it should be balanced with a parallel investment in systems and services that support the recovery of victims."

"Repairing harm to victims should receive the level of attention and investment this important work deserves. Victims can require long term counselling, assistance with safety planning, relocation, and access to a broad range of social services."

“VSS has seen a significant increase in demand for support from victims and their families over the last few years, but resources are not keeping up with demand, meaning victims wait longer for the help they need.”

“We’re calling on the State Government to take a more balanced approach when the time comes to allocate proceeds from the new Rehabilitation Fund, and to recognise the value in supporting the rehabilitation of victims and their families.”

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Victoria Laughton

1800 842 846 or 0419 668 437

media@victimsa.org



Victim Support Service (VSS) is a statewide, not-for-profit organisation that provides practical and therapeutic support to victims and witnesses of crime in South Australia. Our services include:

- information and advocacy
- counselling
- practical assistance
- support for victims of family/domestic abuse.

For more information go to www.victimsa.org.