

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bereaved children left empty-handed by further delays to compensation Bill

Compensation is integral to helping victims recover from the impact of crime.

In the lead up to the 2014 State Election, the State Government promised to double the maximum amount payable to victims under the Victims of Crime Compensation (VOCC) Scheme from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and, for the first time, to allow grief payments of \$20,000 to be made to children of adult victims of homicide.

Victim Support Service (VSS) welcomed these proposals when they were first announced in March 2014. But nearly two years later, victims are still waiting for the State Parliament to approve the legislative amendments.

VSS Chief Executive Julian Roffe said that the failure of our politicians to extend the rights of crime victims to access statutory compensation aggravates the plight of children bereaved by homicide.

“In the context of a 21 year hiatus in the level of compensation payments and an ever-growing Victims of Crime Fund, this delay is unacceptable.”

“The impact of losing a parent to homicide can be devastating and life-long for children.”

“While State Parliament takes a break over Christmas, some children will be having a tough time because they still cannot access the compensation they need – with no end date in sight.”

Anyone seeking information and support in relation to crime can call the Victim Helpline on 1800 VICTIM (1800 842 846)

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