



The representative voice of crime victims services - working for victims of crime.

Victim Support Australia Inc exists to advance the interests of people victimised by crime and encourage development of support services throughout Australia whilst striving towards a crime-free society.

## Ways forward for victims of crime

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People who have been made victims of crime are very diverse, come from all walks of life and are affected by many different types of crime. Victims of crime were once the forgotten people of the Criminal Justice System and the health and welfare services. When the Crown prosecuted an offender, a victim was often required to give evidence in court. Often victims suffered emotional and physical trauma, without being offered any assistance.

Confusion and a lack of information about processes and procedures added to this trauma; quite simply the victim was 're-victimised' by the very system established to offer protection and justice.

The 1985 UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse or Power launched a new era for victims of crime. There has been much progress in recent years. Victim Support Australia Inc (VSA) recognises the need to strengthen and extend these advances. VSA works towards improvements in the rights and services available to victims of crime within the justice, health and welfare systems.

## Objectives of VSA

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1. Encourage and assist development of consistent, high quality, equitable and accessible support services for people victimised by crime throughout Australia.
2. Promote fair and equal recognition of the rights and interests of people victimised by crime.
3. Promote legislative and other reforms throughout the criminal justice system that reflects the rights and interests of people victimised by crime.
4. Promote initiatives by individuals, communities and other agencies to improve responses to people victimised by crime.

5. Consult with and foster cooperation between victim support services throughout Australia.
6. Promote education and awareness; undertake, facilitate and encourage debate and research of issues that impact upon people victimised by crime.

## Functions of VSA

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1. Act as the peak body for member crime victim services in Australia.
  2. Encourage and promote consistent and high quality standards in the delivery of services to crime victims throughout Australia.
  3. Provide opportunities for the exchange of experience, information and resources between victim service organisations in Australia.
  4. Make representations on behalf of victim support services to government regarding legislative policy and services involving victims of crime.
  5. Providing information and advice to individuals and groups planning to organise support services for victims of crime throughout Australia.
  6. Publish and distribute reports, leaflets and other literature relating to the support services required by victims of crime at a national and international level.
  7. Promote public education, research and good support practice aimed at increasing the awareness of and advancing knowledge about the issues and effects of crime on the victim, their families and the community.
  8. Organise conferences on issues relating to victims of crime for members and other interested parties, and to liaise with organisations, professions and interest groups whose contribution could be beneficial to victims of crime.
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## Membership benefits

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VSA Inc members will benefit from:

- ⑩ making a contribution to victim policy development in the Australian region;
- ⑩ information exchange and improved referral between agencies;
- ⑩ improved consistency of policy and practices for victim services;
- ⑩ development of regional standards benchmarks for victim services;
- ⑩ becoming part of a larger and more effective victims' voice where organisational isolation is minimised;
- ⑩ greater interagency and inter-sector collaboration;
- ⑩ a focus on a more strategic and longer term vision for victim services.

In addition, VSA membership entitles services and individuals to full participation at annual general meetings of the Association. This includes contributing to decisions that progress the aims of the Association and the great opportunities to network with your interstate and territory colleagues working in the field. To ensure equitable representation across jurisdictions each state and territory has one vote and members from each jurisdiction work together to determine that vote.

## VSA Contacts

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Chair: Mahashini Krishna.....(02) 8688 8181

Secretary: John Hinchey.....(02) 6205 0399

Treasurer: Nicola Doumany.....(07) 3109 1689

Email: [enquiries@victimsupport.org.au](mailto:enquiries@victimsupport.org.au)

Website: [www.victimsupport.org.au](http://www.victimsupport.org.au)

ABN 26 576 709 202

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## Victim Support Australia Inc membership application/renewal

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Name of organisation	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
Contact person for VSA matters	<input type="text"/>		
Phone	<input type="text"/>	Fax	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>		

## Membership fees

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Please tick as appropriate:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government, well-funded or peak body.....	\$ 100.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low-funded organisations.....	\$ 50.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual.....	\$ 30.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional donation.....	\$ <input type="text"/>
		Total \$	<input type="text"/>

## Please make cheques payable to: Victim Support Australia Inc

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In addition, please enclose relevant supporting documentation about the applicant organisation. For example, Annual Report, aims and objectives, newsletters, meeting minutes, etc.

Signature

Date  /  /

## Please return with payment to:

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Victim Support Australia Inc Treasurer,  
C/- The Director  
Victim Assist Queensland  
GPO Box 149  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

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