

Bereavement Payment Scheme

Factsheet

The NSW Government recognises the immense sadness that is caused when criminal actions result in the loss of an unborn child. The Bereavement Payment Scheme provides a one-off payment to victims and their immediate families when certain criminal offences are charged. This payment can be used for accessing counselling and other support services.

Who can apply for this payment?

An application may be made by:

- the primary victim of the offence (being the person who was pregnant at the time of the offence), or
- in the circumstances where the primary victim has died because of the offence, their next of kin (i.e. partner, parent or child of the primary victim)

Only one person can apply in relation to the loss.

This scheme is governed by formal Guidelines.

How much is the payment?

This scheme offers a one-off payment of \$3000 for each unborn child lost as a result of the criminal offence. Only one payment will be made, regardless of family circumstances.

Application criteria

The payment may be available where:

- the police or prosecutor has charged a third party with a *relevant offence*; and
- the offence took place on or after 29 March 2022.

A relevant offence is one set out in section 54A or section 54B of the *Crimes Act 1900*. There does not need to be a plea or finding of guilt for the purposes of this payment.

How do I apply?

To apply, you will need to complete the Bereavement Payment Scheme Application Form, available online at:

<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/justice/bereavement-payment-scheme.html>

All applicants must provide:

- their name and contact details;
- the charge number, or JusticeLink number;
- if known by the applicant, the name of the accused and the criminal offence charged;
- bank details

The police or prosecutor involved in your criminal matter may be able to assist with providing some of this information.

Application forms can then be sent by email to: bereavement.scheme@justice.nsw.gov.au.

The Department of Communities and Justice will review your application and respond as soon as possible.

Further information

Further information can be found on the Department of Communities and Justice Website at: <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/justice/bereavement-payment-scheme.html>.

Support services

If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, call the Police on Triple Zero (000).

A number of support services are also available to provide you with help including:

NSW Victims Services: help with information and referrals is available Monday to Friday, between 9am-5pm. Victims Access Line – 1800 633 063; Aboriginal Contact Line – 1800 019 123.

Beyond Blue: counsellors are available 24/7 to talk with you on 1300 224 636 or via Webchat online.

Griefline: Free phone support services are available nationwide from 6am to midnight (AEST) at 1300 845 745.