

How WAS can support you at court

Support for victims
of crime

Easy Read version





How to use this document



We are the New South Wales Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 16.



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



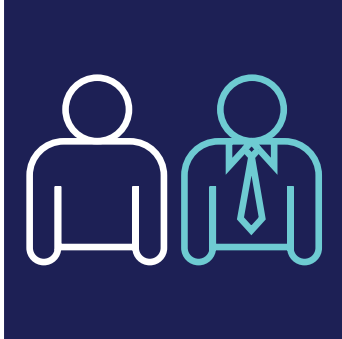
You can find the other document on our website.

[www.odpp.nsw.gov.au/victims-witnesses/
witness-assistance-service](http://www.odpp.nsw.gov.au/victims-witnesses/witness-assistance-service)

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What is WAS?



The Witness Assistance Service (WAS) is a support service for victims of crimes that have happened in NSW.



In this document, we say 'victims' when we talk about people who a crime happened to.

We know that some people choose other words.



WAS supports some people who have to go to court.

This includes:



- people who are a victim of a crime and need to tell the court what happened



- people who are a family member of a victim of a crime.



WAS also supports some **witnesses** of crime.



A witness is a person who saw a crime happen.

They can share what they saw or heard to the court.



WAS provides **culturally safe** support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of crimes.



When something is culturally safe, people feel:

- respected and heard
- safe to be who they are.



WAS can also support **multicultural** people who are victims of crimes.

Multicultural people:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



You can find out more about WAS on our website.

www.odpp.nsw.gov.au/publications/all

Support before you go to court

Help to get ready for court

WAS Officers will help you get ready for court by:



- meeting with the legal team in charge of your court case



- showing you around the court before you have to give **evidence**.

When you give evidence, you talk about what happened to you.

WAS Officers will also help you get ready for court by:



- explaining the different people who work in the court and what they do



- helping you find someone who can support you while you are in court.

WAS Officers will also explain:



- what you need to wear



- when you need to arrive



- what you need to bring.



WAS Officers will also explain how you can give evidence.



WAS Officers can talk to the legal team about any support you need to give evidence.

Support with your Victim Impact Statement



WAS Officers can help you write a **Victim Impact Statement** to take to court.



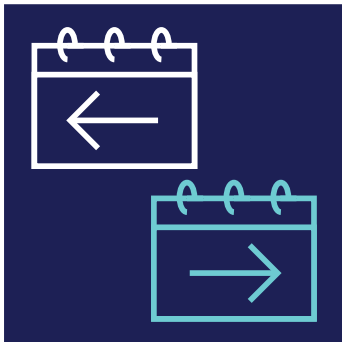
A Victim Impact Statement is when someone talks about how a crime:

- hurt them
- affected their life.

Support during your court case



WAS Officers will share updates on how your court case is going.



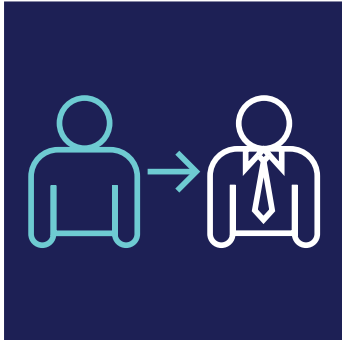
They will meet with you:

- before an important date in court
- after an important date in court.



WAS Officers can help you get ready to hear the court's decision.

Support after your court case

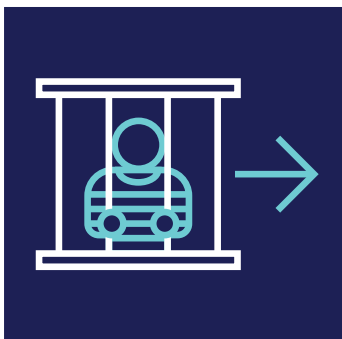


WAS Officers can connect you to more supports and services after your court case ends.

If the person who took part in the crime went to jail, WAS Officers can ask the government to tell you:



- if the court's decision changes



- when the person who took part in the crime will leave jail.

Other supports

There are other supports you can use if you've experienced a crime:



Homicide Victims Support Group

1800 191 777



Victims Services

www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au



Victims Access Line

1800 633 063



Road Trauma Support Group NSW

www.roadtraumasupportnsw.org



NSW Health Sexual Assault Services

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/parvan/sexualassault/
Pages/health-sas-services.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/parvan/sexualassault/Pages/health-sas-services.aspx)

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Culturally safe

When something is culturally safe, people feel:

- respected and heard
- safe to be who they are.



Evidence

When you give evidence, you talk about what happened to you.



Multicultural

Multicultural people:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



Victim Impact Statement

A Victim Impact Statement is when someone talks about how the crime:

- hurt them
- affected their life.



Witness

A witness is a person who saw a crime happen.

They can share what they saw or heard to the court.

Contact us



You can visit our website.

www.odpp.nsw.gov.au



You can also call WAS for support.



You can call one of the WAS offices on the next page.

You can call the
Sydney office.

+61 2 9285 8606

You can call the
Parramatta office.

+61 2 9891 9800

You can call the
Campbelltown office.

+61 2 4629 2811

You can call the
Penrith office.

+61 2 4721 6100

You can call the
Gosford office.

+61 2 4337 1111

You can call the
Dubbo office.

+61 2 6881 3300

You can call the
Wollongong office.

+61 2 4224 7111

You can call the
Newcastle office.

+61 2 4907 4500

You can call the
Wagga Wagga office.

+61 2 6925 8400

You can call the
Lismore office.

+61 2 6627 2222

Support to talk to us

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

13 14 50



You can use the National Relay Service if you:

- are deaf or hard of hearing
- find it hard to speak using the phone.

www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs



You can choose the type of service you need to help make your phone call.

For example, their TTY service (Type and Listen).



You can then ask them to connect you to our phone number.

+61 2 9285 8606

Notes

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