

Summary of updates to the Financial Assistance Scheme guidelines – 25 May 2026

The following table sets out the key amendments to the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) guidelines dated 25 May 2026. These updated guidelines replace the guidelines published by the FAS on 30 June 2025 and should be used from 25 May 2026. The table is a summary only. To the extent there are any inconsistencies between the table and the guidelines, the guidelines apply.

Section of the FAS guidelines	Amendment
2 (Key terms)	Inclusion of definition of “child/children.” Inclusion of definition of “authorised future expenses.”
3.1 (Time limits to apply)	Clarification of time limits for secondary and related victims.
3.2 (Time limits for an applicant to claim an authorised future expense)	Addition of new section to clarify time limits for authorised future expense claims.
8 (Related victims)	Clarification that statutory declarations are only to be provided where the applicant does not have the recommended evidence. This is to reduce the burden on related victims who are close family members from having to provide further evidence to demonstrate their relationship with the deceased primary victim.
14 (Interim assistance) 15.1; 17.1; 18.1 (Counselling expenses)	Inclusion of reference to “initial” and “earlier” to replace “urgent” and “immediate” to more accurately reflect the intent of interim assistance and better align with the <i>Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance Scheme) Act 2022</i> (the FAS Act).
15.3 (Primary victims – medical expenses); 17.3 (Secondary victims – medical expenses); 18.3 (Related victims – medical expenses)	Minor clarificatory amendment on requirement for medical expenses to be required due to the injury sustained because of the violent act, and reasonable and proportionate for the treatment of the injury.
15.5.1 (What a primary victim needs to show for loss or damage to clothing)	Amendment to update the “required evidence” section.
15.6.1 (Requirement for providers of security equipment to hold valid licence)	Addition of new section on <i>Private Security Act 2004</i> and <i>Private Security Regulations 2025</i> requirements for security equipment providers.

Section of the FAS guidelines	Amendment
15.7 (Recovery expenses)	Minor clarificatory amendment that recovery expenses should directly assist the victim in recovering from the violent act.
16.1.2 (Moving to a higher category- Special Financial Assistance)	Amendment to include that in some circumstances, victims may be eligible to move up more than one category. Row C in the table updated to align with the FAS Regulations.
18.4.1 (Distress payments above the set amounts)	Addition of new section to provide guidance of when the FAS may consider paying above the standard amount for distress payments to related victims.
18.6.1 (Types of other reasonable expenses the FAS can pay)	Addition of new section to provide examples of other reasonable expenses the FAS can pay to related victims.
19.2 (Types of funeral expenses)	Inclusion of clarification that the amount of \$19,627 is the total amount available for the funeral of a deceased primary victim, and where multiple applicants incur funeral expenses, the total combined amount payable cannot exceed \$19,627.
20.3 (Payments above or below the standard amount of legal costs)	Inclusion of guidance on payments above or below the standard amount of legal costs.
24 (Variation of a VOCAT award)	Inclusion of clarification that a variation is only required if the cost per session is higher than what was originally approved, or if the provider is providing a different service than was originally approved.
25 (Variation of FAS assistance)	Inclusion of clarification that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variation is only required if the cost per session is higher than what was originally approved, or if the provider is providing a different service than was originally approved • the FAS can only vary an applicant's assistance up to the maximum assistance cap at the time of the original decision to better align with the intent of the FAS Act.
26.1 (Decisions that can and cannot be reviewed)	Inclusion of authorised future expense decisions under decisions that cannot be reviewed.
28.2 (Victim recognition meetings)	Clarification that victim recognition meetings are currently available for related victims only.
Throughout Guidelines	Removal of Victim Impact Statements as an evidence type.