



**VICTIMS OF CRIME
ASSISTANCE TRIBUNAL**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2001 - 2002**

Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal

Annual Report

2001/02



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FORWARD FROM CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Pursuant to Section 68 of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, this Annual Report is produced to indicate the operations of the Tribunal for the financial year ending 30 June 2002.

This Annual Report sets out the statistical data relating to all aspects of the Tribunal's operations throughout the year 2001/02. Throughout the report comparisons are made to previous years to illustrate the volume of applications received, the number of applications disposed of and the expenditure involved.¹

A key feature of the year under review for the Tribunal has been the ongoing implementation of procedures allowing for greater accessibility to the Tribunal. Since the decentralisation of the Tribunal in January 2001, hearings may now be conducted in all Victorian Magistrates' Courts as opposed to only the Melbourne Magistrates' Court. Applications may be lodged at the Court nearest to where the applicant resides, which has improved accessibility to the Tribunal throughout Victoria.

Although there has been an increase in applications lodged from 2000/01, the clearance rate has improved greatly over the past year. The decentralisation of the Tribunal has assisted the finalisation of matters to outnumber the applications being lodged. It is anticipated that matters will continue to be finalised more quickly due to the increased number of Tribunal registries throughout Victoria.

The Tribunal members and registry staff continue to refine procedures aimed to expedite the determination of applications, while recognising the Tribunal provides a forum for victims of crime to be heard. A State Conference of VOCAT Registrars in April 2002 has greatly improved service delivery and consistency in procedures statewide.

The *Victims of Crime Assistance (Amendment) Act 2000* which introduced additional assistance to applicants, particularly awards of Special Financial Assistance, have been in operation since January 2001. Applications have increased since its implementation and this rise is expected to continue. Over the past year the Tribunal has adapted to its increased workload and it is anticipated it will continue to do so during the forthcoming year.

The past year has seen a Review into victim services throughout Victoria and recommendations on improvements of service delivery to victims. The Tribunal submitted submissions in response to the Review of Services of Victims of Crime report published in February 2002. The recommendations being considered will significantly impact upon the Tribunal, whilst providing positive change to the legislation and increased powers to registrars. These proposed changes will assist the Tribunal in its efforts to provide urgent assistance where necessary, with minimal delays. It is a period of great change in the history of the Tribunal and with the provision of the additional resources necessary, these recommendations will enhance the service provided by an already efficient and professional Tribunal.

¹ The statistics and amounts detailed in this Annual Report may differ to previous publications due to revisions of counting rules. Data may also vary between reports generated on different occasions due to the dynamic nature of the Courtlink Database.

PURPOSE AND HISTORY OF THE TRIBUNAL

The principal purpose of the Tribunal is to help victims of crime recover from the act of violence to which they have been subjected, and to assist with expenses that may have resulted from the crime.²

The Tribunal may provide assistance if:

- satisfied that an act of violence has taken place in Victoria which is punishable upon conviction by imprisonment;
- the act of violence was reported to the police and either a physical and/or psychological injury resulted from the act of violence;
- the application was made within 2 years of the act of violence taking place. However, the Tribunal has discretion to extend the time for making applications beyond this limitation if the applicant can satisfy the Tribunal that special circumstances exist. This extension of time application must be lodged with the Tribunal before any assistance can be granted.

Before the Tribunal can determine whether an award will be made, all relevant material, including medical reports, must be filed by, or on behalf of an applicant. In addition, the Tribunal will request a copy of the police report, and in certain circumstances, material such as public hospital records.

When determining an award of assistance, the Tribunal will take into account any payments already received by the victim from any other scheme, such as WorkCover, the Transport Accident Commission, medical and / or private health insurance or from the offender (if found guilty) at the completion of the criminal case or paid by way of civil damages. Assistance should be sought from any other appropriate scheme/organisation before seeking assistance through the Tribunal.

A brief history of the legislative changes relating to this jurisdiction is as follows:

- *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1972* introduced on 27 March 1973, establishing entitlement to payments for pain and suffering;
- *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983* repealed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1972*, effective 21 March 1984, increasing the amount of compensation that could be awarded for pain and suffering to \$20,000.
- *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* repealed the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, effective 1 July 1997, removing the entitlement to compensation for pain and suffering, and specifying categories of victim.
- *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* amended, effective 1 January 2001, establishing entitlements to payments for pain and suffering in the form of special financial assistance to *primary victims*. This entitlement was made retrospective to those acts of violence that took place on / after 1 July 2000, for where the applicant was a victim of childhood sexual abuse.

² Refer to the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* for a detailed explanation of the operations of the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal, the criteria for the making of an award, and the type / amount of assistance that may be awarded.

APPLICATIONS LODGED AND FINALISED

Due to the large amount of legislative change in relation to this jurisdiction over the last 5 years, there have been large variations in the number of applications lodged and finalised each year.

In 2001/02 there were 4,191 applications lodged with the Tribunal, compared to 3,497 the previous year, representing an increase of 20% (694 applications).

In 2001/02 there were 4,420 applications finalised, compared to 2,805 the previous year, representing an increase of 58% (1,615 applications).

The increase in applications finalised in 2001/02 is attributed to an increase in the number of applications lodged from January 2001, when lump sum payments could be awarded in the form of special financial assistance.

Table 1
Number of applications lodged and finalised, 1995/96 - 2001/02

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Applications lodged	8,541	12,289	1,202	1,627	2,231	3,497	4,191
Applications finalised ³	10,483	10,712	9,942	5,385	3,452	2,805	4,420

Chart 1
Number of applications lodged and finalised, 1995/96 - 2001/02

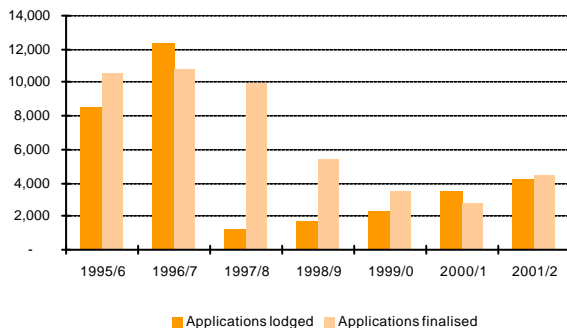
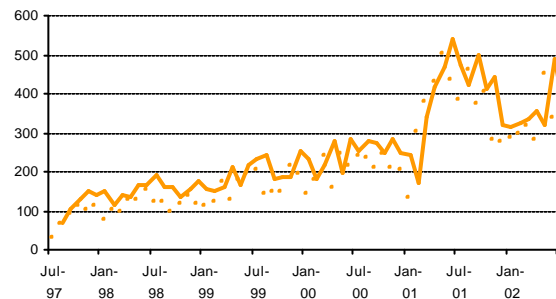


Chart 2
Number of applications lodged monthly, 1997/98 - 2001/02



³ An application is finalised when the Tribunal has made an award, or the application is refused or struck out.

OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS

In 2001/02 there were 4,420 applications finalised, compared to 2,805 the previous year, representing an increase of 58% (1,615 applications).

The increase in applications finalised in 2001/02 may be attributed to an increase in the number of applications received since January 2001, when lump sum payments could be awarded in the form of special financial assistance.

Of the applications finalised in 2001/02, 54% (2,392 applications) resulted in an award being made. Of the awards made, only 3% (81 applications) related to awards made under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, compared to 12% (160 applications) in the previous year.

Where an award was not made, the application was more often withdrawn by the applicant or struck out by the Tribunal (approximately 25% of applications), rather than refused (less than 4% of applications).

Table 2
Number of applications finalised by outcome of application, 1995/96 - 2001/02

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Number							
Award made (VOCAT) ⁴	-	-	124	656	1,137	1,130	2,311
Award made (CCT) ⁵	7,067	6,975	5,768	2,193	661	160	81
Other Disposal ⁶	-	-	-	-	193	220	140
Refused ⁷	382	439	355	218	107	103	124
Withdrawn / Stuck out ⁸	1,703	2,129	2,366	1,503	885	739	1211
Adjourned sine die ⁹	1,314	1,141	1,309	767	444	449	551
Section 32 / 48 orders ¹⁰	17	28	20	48	25	4	2
TOTAL	10,483	10,712	9,942	5,385	3,452	2,805	4,420
Percentage							
Award made (VOCAT)	0.0	0.0	1.2	12.2	32.9	40.3	52.3
Award made (CCT)	67.4	65.1	58.0	40.7	19.1	5.7	1.8
Other Disposal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	7.8	3.2
Refused	3.6	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.1	3.7	2.8
Withdrawn / Stuck out	16.2	19.9	23.8	27.9	25.6	26.3	27.4
Adjourned sine die	12.5	10.7	13.2	14.2	12.9	16.0	12.5
Section 32 / 48 orders	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.1	0.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

⁴ Refers to awards made under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*.

⁵ Refers to awards made under *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*.

⁶ *Other disposal* refers to applications that were finalised without an award being made, or where interim awards have been previously granted and no further assistance from the Tribunal is required.

⁷ *Refused* refers to applications where an award was refused on the grounds that the application did not satisfy the criteria of the legislation in relation to an award.

⁸ *Struck out* refers to those applications where:

- the applicant failed to comply with the Tribunal's request for material to be filed;
- where the applicant does not respond to the time limits for specific actions, as issued by the Tribunal; or
- where the Tribunal Member is not satisfied on the merits of the application that an award should be made.

⁹ *Adjourned sine die* refers to applications that have been adjourned to no fixed date.

¹⁰ *Section 32/48 orders* refers to applications made under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983* or the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* for an order for costs to be made against the applicant.

OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS

Chart 3

Number of applications finalised, by outcome of application, 1995/96 - 2001/02

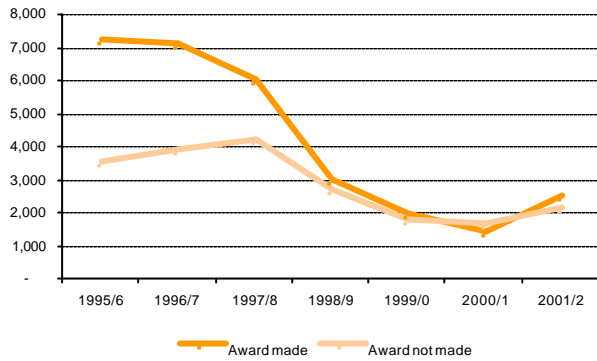


Chart 4

Outcome distribution in relation to finalised applications, 1995/96 - 2001/02

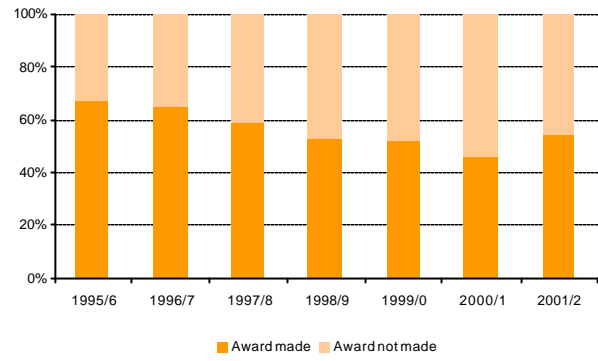
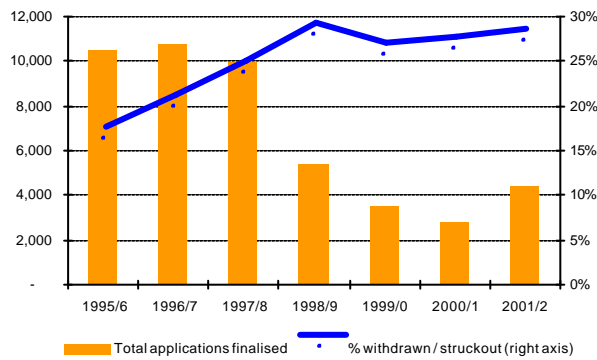


Chart 5

Comparison of total number of applications finalised and proportion withdrawn / struck out, 1995/96 - 2001/02



VICTIM CATEGORIES

In 2001/02 there were 2,311 awards made under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, compared to 1,130 the previous year, representing an increase of 105% (1,181 awards).

Of the awards made under this legislation since 1997/98, the majority were made in relation to *primary victims*, followed by *related victims*.¹¹

Of the awards made under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* in 2001/02, 80% (1,854 awards) were made in relation to *primary victims*, compared to 66% in the previous financial year.

Table 3

Number of awards made under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, by victim category, 1997/98 - 2001/02

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Number					
Primary Victim	109	559	768	751	1,854
Secondary Victim	2	29	50	59	146
Related Victim	9	64	316	317	308
Section 15 Funeral Expenses	4	4	3	3	3
TOTAL	124	656	1,137	1,130	2,311
Percentage					
Primary Victim	87.9	85.2	72.2	66.5	80.2
Secondary Victim	1.6	4.4	3.8	5.2	6.3
Related Victim	7.3	9.8	23.8	28.1	13.3
Section 15 Funeral Expenses	3.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.1
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Chart 6

Number of awards made under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, by victim category, 1997/98 - 2001/02

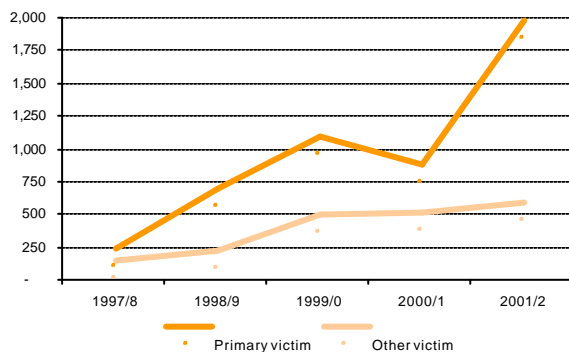
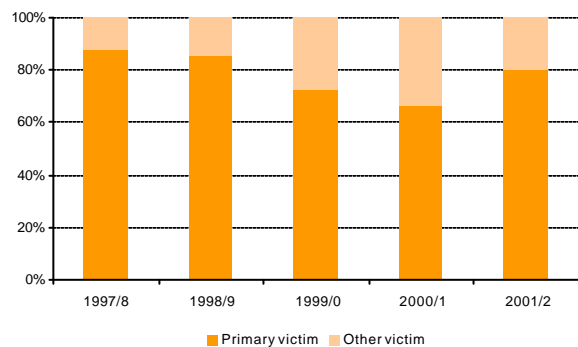


Chart 7

Victim category distribution where an award was made under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, 1997/98 - 2001/02



¹¹ A detailed explanation of victim categories, assistance available in relation to each victim category is provided on page 27.

Total of awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where no expenses were incurred by the Tribunal (recorded as 'other disposal' in Table 2).

GENDER OF VICTIMS

Between 1998/99 and 2001/02, just over half of all awards made related to female victims, reversing the annual trend prior to 1998/99 where just over half of all awards made related to male victims.

Table 4

Number of awards made under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* and *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, by gender of victim, 1995/96 - 2001/02 ¹²

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Number							
Male victim	3,551	3,620	2,971	1,315	931	683	1,237
Female victim	3,516	3,355	2,921	1,530	1,056	825	1,292
Unknown	-	-	-	4	4	2	3
TOTAL	7,067	6,975	5,892	2,849	1,991	1,510	2,532
Percentage							
Male victim	50.2	51.9	50.4	46.2	46.8	45.2	48.9
Female victim	49.8	48.1	49.6	53.7	53.0	54.6	51.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Chart 8

Number of awards made by gender of victim, 1997/98 - 2001/02

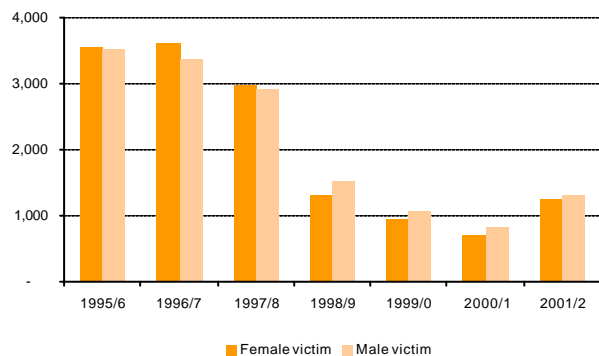
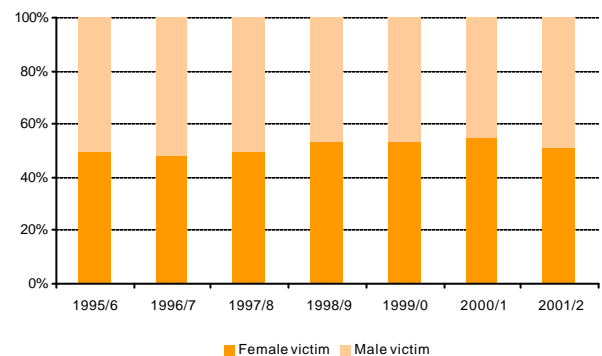


Chart 9

Gender distribution of victims where an award was made, 1997/98 - 2001/02



¹² Total of awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where no expenses were incurred by the Tribunal (recorded as 'other disposal' in Table 2).

AGE OF VICTIMS

Of the awards made under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983* and the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* in 2001/02: ¹³

- 25% of awards related to persons aged 18 years or less at the time of the incident;
- 69% of awards related to persons aged 19 - 60 years at the time of the incident; and
- 5% of awards related to persons aged 61 years and above at the time of the incident.

The proportion of persons who were aged 18 years and below at the time of the incident decreased from 33% to 25% between 1998/99 and 2000/02, while the proportion of persons aged 61 years and above at the time of the incident increased from 2% to 5%.

Table 5

Number of awards made under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* and *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983* by age of victim at time of incident, 1995/96 - 2001/02 ¹⁴

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Number							
0 - 18 years	1,943	1,722	1,683	939	631	420	637
19 - 25 years	1,459	1,350	1,131	500	334	221	437
26 - 35 years	1,633	1,679	1,357	621	378	306	565
36 - 60 years	1,743	1,876	1,460	656	531	466	739
61 years and above	231	244	153	69	81	84	135
Unknown	58	104	108	64	36	13	19
TOTAL	7,067	6,975	5,892	2,849	1,991	1,510	2,532
Percentage							
0 - 18 years	27.5	24.7	28.6	33.0	31.8	27.8	25.2
19 - 25 years	20.6	19.4	19.2	17.6	16.8	14.6	17.3
26 - 35 years	23.1	24.1	23.0	21.8	19.0	20.3	22.3
36 - 60 years	24.7	26.9	24.8	23.1	26.7	30.9	29.2
61 years and above	3.3	3.5	2.6	2.4	4.1	5.6	5.3
Unknown	0.8	1.5	1.8	2.1	1.6	0.9	0.8
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Chart 10

Age distribution of victims where an award was made, 1998/99 - 2001/02

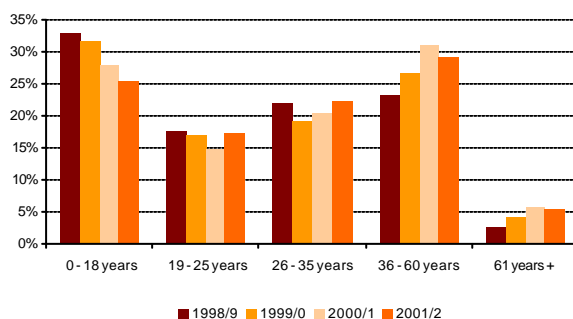
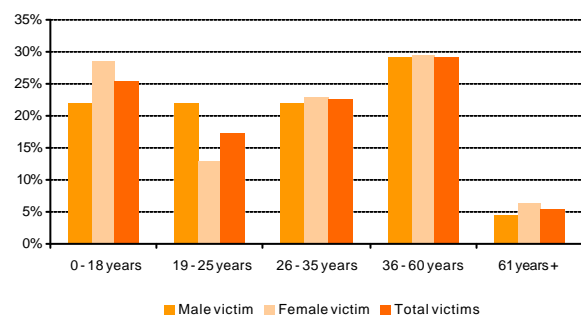


Chart 11

Age distribution of male and female victims where an award was made, 2001/02



¹³ Age of person at time that criminal act occurred that led to the application being made.

¹⁴ Total of awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where no expenses were incurred by the Tribunal (recorded as 'other disposal' in Table 2).

CASE PROCESSING TIMES

Of the 4,420 applications that were finalised in 2001/02, 76% were finalised within 12 months of the application being made.¹⁵

The proportion of applications finalised within 12 months of commencement increased each year since 1998/99, where only 22% of applications were finalised within 12 months of commencement.

The increase in the proportion of applications finalised within 12 months of commencement may be attributed to an increase in the number of applications being determined without conducting a hearing, at the request of the applicant.

Table 6

Case processing time distribution relating to finalised applications, 1998/99 - 2001/02

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Number applications finalised	5,385	3,452	2,805	4,420
Case Processing Time (percentage)				
0 < 3 months	2.2	7.9	5.6	5.2
3 < 6 months	9.0	23.0	26.9	27.5
6 < 9 months	6.7	13.5	25.9	26.4
9 < 12 months	4.2	6.4	11.9	17.1
12 < 18 months	30.4	7.6	9.8	12.4
18 < 24 months	22.0	3.2	4.3	3.3
24 months +	25.5	38.4	15.5	8.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Chart 12

Case processing times for application finalised, 2001/02

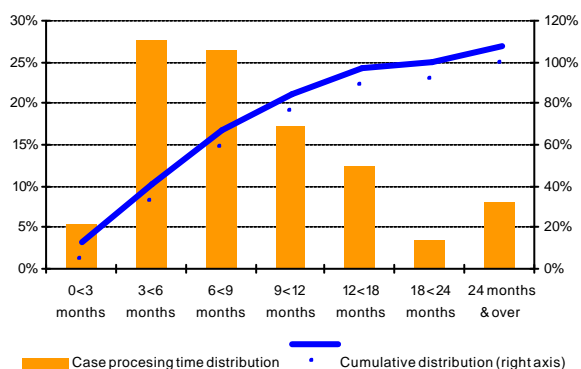
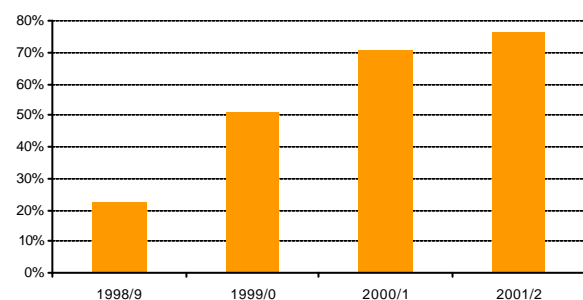


Chart 13

Proportion of applications finalised within 12 months of commencement, 1998/99 - 2001/02



¹⁵ Refer to section 33 of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* for further details regarding the power of the Tribunal to determine an application without a hearing.

Case processing times are not totally under the control of VOCAT since much of the processing time relates to awaiting judgements from other courts and information from other sources. There are a number of factors that will cause delays in finalising the application, including awaiting:

- results of prosecutions / inquests;
- results of medical / psychological reports;
- police briefs;
- prior convictions information from Police;
- notifying the offender.

PENDING APPLICATIONS

There were 3,863 applications recorded as pending (i.e., waiting to be determined) at the end of 2001/02 compared to 3,406 the previous year, representing an increase of 13% (457 applications).

Of the applications that were pending at the end of 2001/02: ¹⁶

- 28% had been pending for less than 3 months; and
- 75% had been pending for less than 12 months.

Table 7

Number of cases pending at end of reporting period, by elapsed time between date application lodged and 30 June, 1999/00 - 2001/02 ¹⁷

Elapsed time	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	
			Number	Percentage
0 < 3 months	-	-	1,068	27.6
3 < 6 months	-	-	783	20.3
6 < 9 months	-	-	554	14.3
9 < 12 months	-	-	477	12.3
12 < 18 months	-	-	521	13.5
18 < 24 months	-	-	160	4.1
24 months +	-	-	300	7.8
TOTAL	2,349	3,406	3,863	100.0%

Chart 14

Comparison of number of applications lodged, finalised and pending, 1999/00 - 2001/02

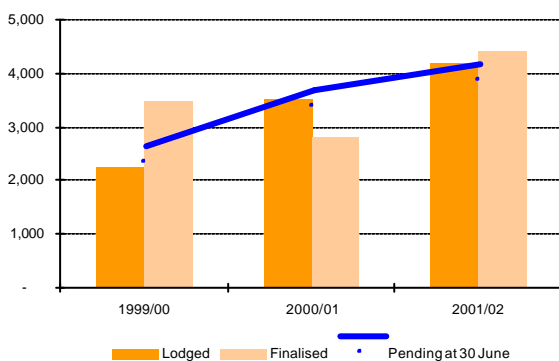
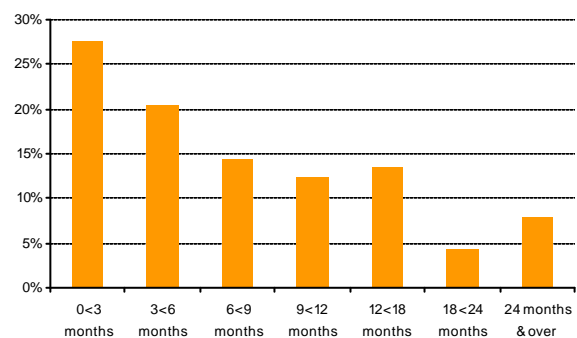


Chart 15

Age of pending at 30 June 2002



¹⁶ An application is pending, if at the end of the reporting period, it has not been finalised. An application is finalised when the Tribunal has made an award, or the application is refused or struck out.

Case processing times are not totally under the control of VOCAT since much of the processing time relates to awaiting judgements from other courts and information from other sources. Such waiting periods impact upon the age of pending applications. There are a number of factors that will cause delays in finalising the application, including awaiting:

- results of prosecutions / inquests;
- results of medical / psychological reports;
- police briefs;
- prior convictions information from Police;
- notifying the offender.

¹⁷ Data regarding age of pending available from 2001/02.

REVIEW TO VICTORIAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

In 2001/02 there were 23 applications to review a decision of the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal finalised at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), compared to 16 in the previous year.¹⁸

Table 8

Number of applications for review finalised at VCAT, by outcome, 1995/96 - 2001/02

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Number							
Decision affirmed ¹⁹	9	18	18	11	3	2	4
Award on refusal by CCT / VOCAT ²⁰	22	18	23	23	4	3	7
Award decisions – varied ²¹	40	41	61	34	10	9	3
Withdrawn / abandoned by applicant	35	61	24	22	9	1	5
Appeal dismissed	5	6	19	1	-	-	-
Struck out	-	6	15	10	3	-	2
Referred back to Tribunal	-	-	1	1	1	1	2
TOTAL	111	150	161	102	30	16	23
Percentage							
Decision affirmed	8.1	12.0	11.2	10.8	10.0	12.5	17.4
Award on Refusal by CCT/VOCAT	19.8	12.0	14.3	22.5	13.3	18.8	30.4
Award Decisions – varied	36.0	27.3	37.9	33.3	33.3	56.3	13.0
Withdrawn / abandoned by applicant	31.5	40.7	14.9	21.6	30.0	6.3	21.7
Appeal dismissed	4.5	4.0	11.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Struck out	0.0	4.0	9.3	9.8	10.0	0.0	8.7
Referred back to Tribunal	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	3.3	6.3	8.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Chart 16

Number of applications for review finalised, and as a proportion of total applications finalised, 1995/96 - 2001/02

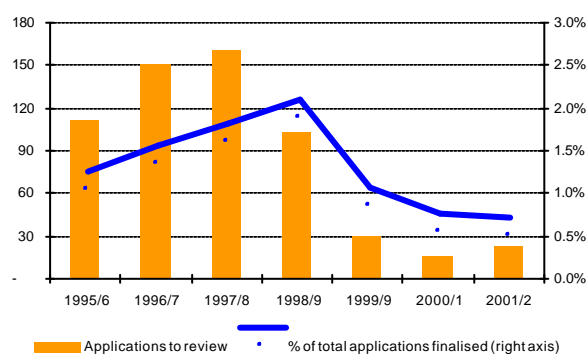
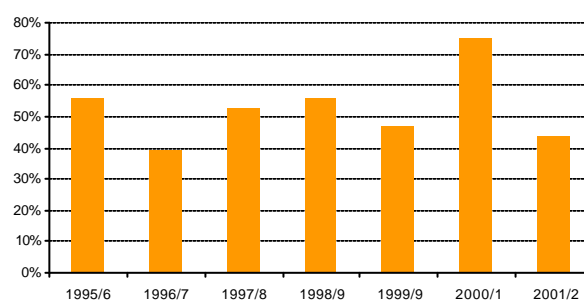


Chart 17

Proportion of finalised applications to review where VCAT made an award / varied an award, 1995/96 - 2001/02



¹⁸ An application for review may be made to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal when an applicant is dissatisfied with a decision / order of the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal.

¹⁹ *Decision affirmed* - VCAT confirmed the original award made by the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal.

²⁰ *Award on refusal CCT / VOCAT* - VCAT overturned the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal's refusal of award.

²¹ *Award decisions varied* - VCAT varied the original award made by the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal by either increasing or decreasing the monetary amount awarded.

PAYMENTS MADE

In 2001/02 the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal paid:

- \$1,040,018 in relation to 81 awards of compensation under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, compared to \$2,002,049 in relation to 160 applications the previous year, representing a decrease of 48% in the amount of compensation awarded.
- \$13,941,015 in relation to 2,311 awards of assistance under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, compared to \$9,693,048 in relation to 1,130 in the previous year, representing an increase of 44% in the amount of assistance awarded. This increase in the amount of assistance awarded is attributed to an increase in applications lodged and finalised.
- \$1,641,382 in legal costs and disbursements, compared to \$769,684 in the previous year, representing an increase of 113%. The increase in legal costs in 2001/02 may be attributed to an increase in the number of applications finalised.²²

Table 9

Amounts paid on award by way of compensation, assistance and legal costs, 1998/99 - 2001/02²³

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Amount				
Compensation - <i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983</i>	\$20,580,277	\$7,909,452	\$2,002,049	\$1,040,018
Assistance - <i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996</i>	\$2,938,434	8,568,915	\$9,693,048	\$13,941,015
Legal costs / disbursements	\$2,409,478	\$1,137,002	\$769,684	\$1,641,382
TOTAL	\$25,928,189	\$17,615,369	\$12,464,781	\$16,622,415
Percentage				
Compensation - <i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983</i>	79.4	44.9	16.1	6.3
Assistance - <i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996</i>	11.3	48.6	77.8	83.9
Legal costs / disbursements	9.3	6.5	6.2	9.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Chart 18

Amount of assistance paid by way of compensation, assistance and legal costs, 1998/99 - 2001/02

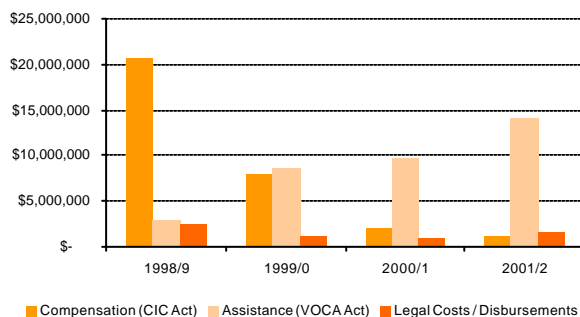
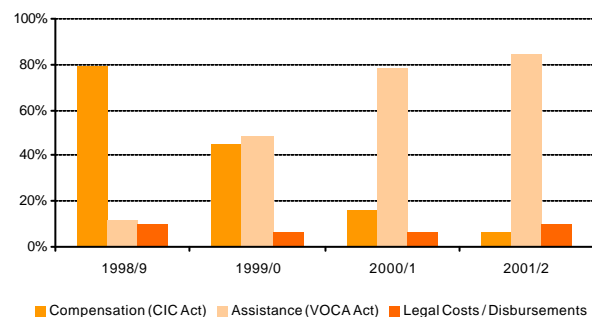


Chart 19

Distribution of type of assistance paid, 1998/99 - 2001/02



²² A Tribunal Member has discretion to award legal practitioners costs for assisting an applicant with their claim. These legal costs relate to preparation and appearance fees, and include disbursements consisting of medical, psychological, and hospital reports that were previously paid by the instructing solicitor.

²³ Amounts rounded to the nearest dollar. The statistics and amounts detailed in this Annual Report may differ to previous reports due to revisions to counting rules. Data may also vary between Annual Reports as statistical reports generated on different occasions may differ due to the dynamic nature of the Courtlink database, which is the source of statistical data.

AWARDS - VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE ACT 1996

In 2001/02 there were 2,311 awards made under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, compared to 1,130 the previous year, representing an increase of 105% (1,181 awards). The Tribunal awarded a total of \$13,941,015 in assistance in relation to 2,311 awards.

The increase in the amount of assistance awarded in 2001/02 is attributed to an increase in the number of applications lodged and finalised from January 2001, where lump sum payments could be awarded in the form of special financial assistance. Furthermore, the majority of applications received from January 2001 to June 2001 would not have been determined until 2001/02.

Of the amount of special financial assistance awarded in 2001/02: ²⁴

- 53% related to victims where the offence involved sexual penetration or attempted murder.
- 28% related to victims where the offence involved the attempted sexual penetration of the victim; an indecent act with, or indecent assault against the person; armed robbery; aggravated burglary; or the deprivation of liberty of the victim for the purpose of sexual penetration or demanding a ransom for their release.

Table 10

Amount of assistance awarded under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, by category of assistance awarded, 2000/01 - 2001/02 ²⁵

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Amount				
Special financial assistance	-	-	\$210,800	\$3,221,561
Pecuniary loss	\$628,664	\$1,446,077	\$1,341,441	\$1,944,559
Dependency loss	-	\$420.00	\$6,812	\$37,848
Medical expenses	\$125,519	\$402,791	\$421,7189	\$580,910
Counselling expenses	\$160,169	\$581,314	\$590,874	\$1,011,375
Funeral expenses	\$368,271	\$420,802	\$483,018	\$499,453
Distress	\$964,146	\$4,969,949	\$5,643,694	\$5,224,090
Other	\$691,665	\$747,564	\$994,689	\$1,421,220
TOTAL	\$2,938,434	\$8,568,915	\$9,693,048	\$13,941,015
Percentage				
Special financial assistance	0.0	0.0	2.2	23.1
Pecuniary loss	21.4	16.9	13.8	13.9
Dependency loss	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3
Medical expenses	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.2
Counselling expenses	5.5	6.8	6.1	7.3
Funeral expenses	12.5	4.9	5.0	3.6
Distress	32.8	58.0	58.2	37.5
Other	23.5	8.7	10.3	10.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

²⁴ Of the assistance awarded in 2001/02, 23% related to special financial assistance, compared to 2% in the previous year. As a result of amendments to the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* enabling the Tribunal to award lump sum payments for pain and suffering in the form of special financial assistance, there was an increase in the number of applications lodged. As the majority of these applications would not have been finalised until 2001/02, the amount of special financial assistance awarded in 2000/01 is low compared to the following year.

²⁵ Amounts rounded to the nearest dollar. The statistics and amounts detailed in this Annual Report may differ to previous reports due to revisions to counting rules. Data may also vary between Annual Reports as statistical reports generated on different occasions may differ due to the dynamic nature of the Courtlink database, which is the source of statistical data.

AWARDS - VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE ACT 1996

Chart 20

Comparison of number of awards made and total amount of assistance awarded under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, 1998/99 - 2001/02

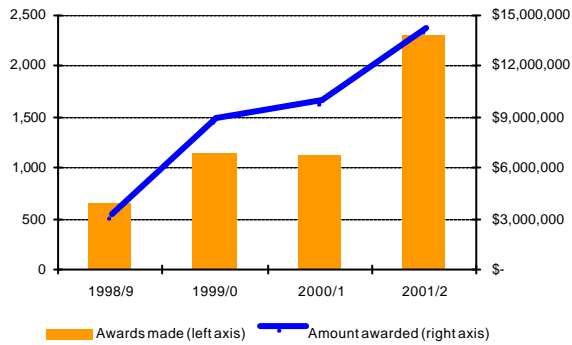


Chart 21

Distribution of total assistance awarded under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, 1998/99 - 2001/02

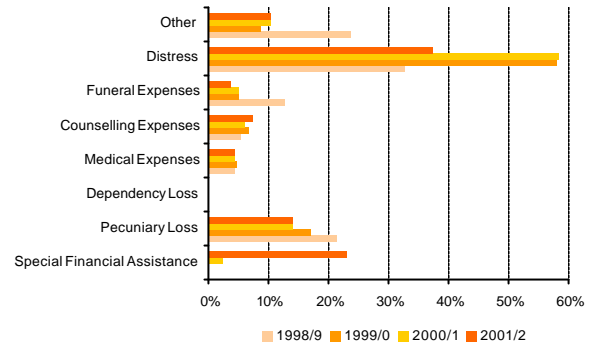


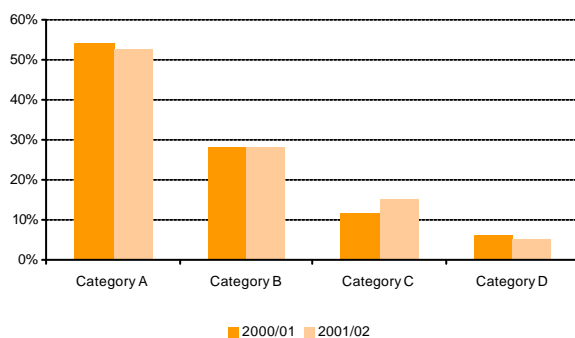
Table 11

Amount of special financial assistance awarded, by victim category, 2000/01 - 2001/02 ²⁶

Victim Category	2000/01		2001/02	
	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Category A	\$113,500	53.8	\$1,694,400	52.6
Category B	\$59,500	28.2	\$894,200	27.8
Category C	\$24,650	11.7	\$475,911	14.8
Category D	\$13,150	6.2	\$157,050	4.9
TOTAL	\$210,800	100.0	\$3,221,561	100.0

Chart 22

Distribution of special financial assistance awarded under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, by victim category, 2000/01 - 2001/02



²⁶ Amounts rounded to nearest dollar.

AWARDS - CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION ACT 1996

In 2001/02 there were 81 awards of compensation made under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, compared to 160 in the previous year, representing a decrease of 49% (79 awards). The Tribunal awarded a total of \$1,040,018 in relation to the 81 awards made.

Of the amount awarded in 2001/02, 78% related to payments for pain and suffering.

Table 12

Amount of assistance awarded under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, by category of assistance awarded, 2000/01 - 2001/02 ²⁷

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Amount				
Pain and Suffering	\$18,091,984	\$6,718,875	\$1,641,517	\$810,736
Pecuniary Loss	\$651,754	\$335,657	\$108,303	\$108,319
Dependency Loss	\$33,680	\$1,500.00	-	-
Medical Expenses	\$101,342	\$171,299	\$81,024	\$39,486
Counselling Expenses	\$335,755	\$473,588	\$110,021	\$36,553
Other	\$1,365,761	\$208,532	\$61,184	\$44,924
TOTAL	\$20,580,277	\$7,909,452	\$2,002,049	\$1,040,018
Percentage				
Pain and Suffering	87.9	84.9	82.0	78.0
Pecuniary Loss	3.2	4.2	5.4	10.4
Dependency Loss	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Medical Expenses	0.5	2.2	4.0	3.8
Counselling Expenses	1.6	6.0	5.5	3.5
Other	6.6	2.6	3.1	4.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Chart 23

Comparison of number of awards made and amount of assistance awarded under *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, 1998/99 - 2001/02

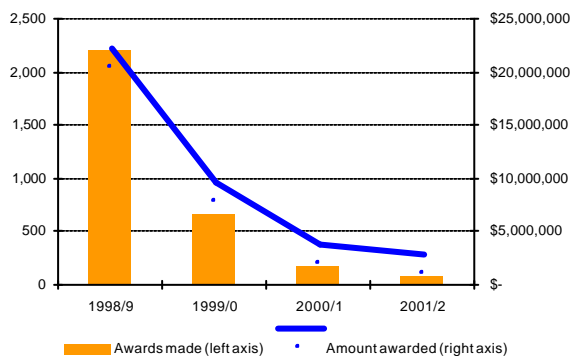
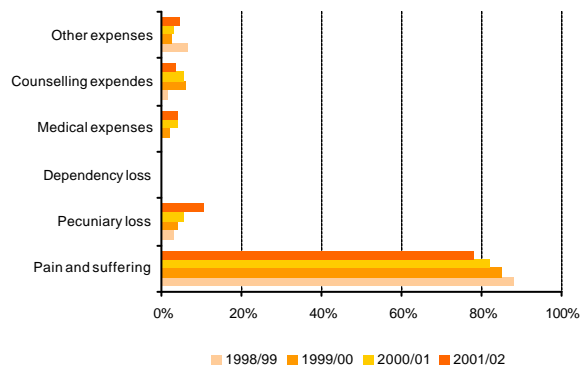


Chart 24

Distribution of type of assistance awarded under *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, 1998/99 - 2001/02



²⁷ Amounts rounded to the nearest dollar. The statistics and amounts detailed in this Annual Report may differ to previous reports due to revisions to counting rules. Data may also vary between Annual Reports as statistical reports generated on different occasions may differ due to the dynamic nature of the Courtlink database, which is the source of statistical data.

AWARD AMOUNTS

Table 13

Number of awards under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* and *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, by award amount, 2001/02 ²⁸

Award Amount	Number of Awards			Percentage		
	CIC Act	VOCA Act	Total	CIC Act	VOCA Act	Total
Under \$1,000	7	639	646	8.6	26.1	25.5
\$1,000 - 3,000	5	769	774	6.2	31.4	30.6
\$3,000 - 5,000	12	307	319	14.8	12.5	12.6
\$5,000 - 7,000	5	168	173	6.2	6.9	6.8
\$7,000 - 10,000	4	188	192	4.9	7.7	7.6
\$10,000 - 20,000	30	207	237	37.0	8.4	9.4
\$20,000 - 30,000	14	113	127	17.3	4.6	5.0
\$30,000 - 40,000	3	37	40	3.7	1.5	1.6
\$40,000 - 50,000	1	23	24	1.2	0.9	0.9
TOTAL	81	2,451	2,532	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14

Average amount awarded under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* and *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, 1998/899 - 2001/02

	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983</i>	\$9,385	\$11,966	\$12,513	\$12,840
<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996</i>	\$4,479	\$7,536	\$8,578	\$6,032

Chart 25

Distribution of award amounts under *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983* and *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, 2001/02

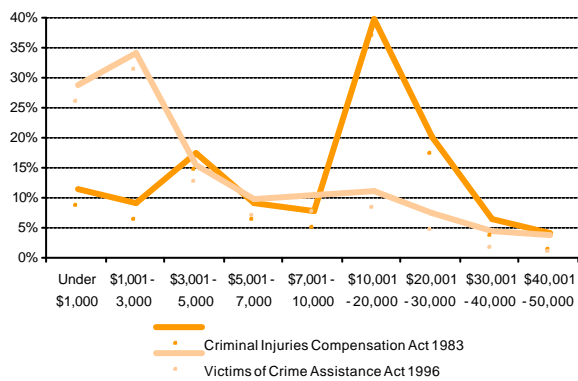
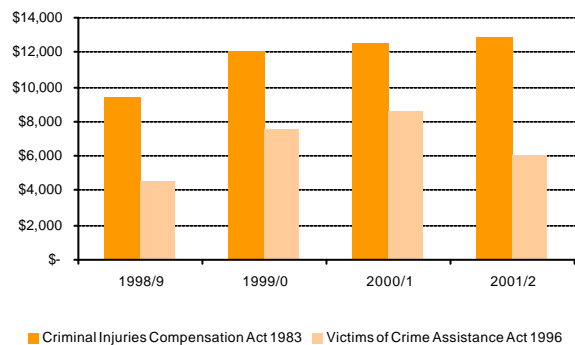


Chart 26

Average amount awarded under *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* and *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*, 1998/99 - 2001/02



²⁸ Total awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where the Tribunal incurred no expenses.

AWARDS HELD IN TRUST

In 2001/02, 221 awards were invested in Trust on behalf of victims of crime.²⁹

On 30 June 2002:

- there were 2,617 awards held in Trust on behalf of victims, compared to 2,821 the previous year, representing a decrease of 7% (204 awards);³⁰
- \$26,611,732 was invested in Trust in relation to the 2,617 awards held in Trust, compared to \$28,293,572 the previous year, representing a decrease of 6%;
- \$1,345,368 interest had been earned in relation to awards invested in Trust in the previous 12 months, compared to \$1,596,654 the previous year, representing a decrease of 16%.

Table 15

Number of awards held in Trust at 30 June, total Trust money invested and interest earned, 1996/97 - 2001/02³¹

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Awards held in Trust	2,883	3,797	3,599	3,219	2,821	2,617
Award amount invested	\$24,317,978	\$31,298,066	\$31,221,948	\$30,054,232	\$28,293,572	\$26,611,732
Interest earned on amount in Trust	\$1,690,796	\$1,467,745	\$1,527,457	\$1,673,406	\$1,596,654	\$1,345,368

Chart 27

Number of awards held in Trust and amount invested at 30 June, 1996/97 - 2001/02

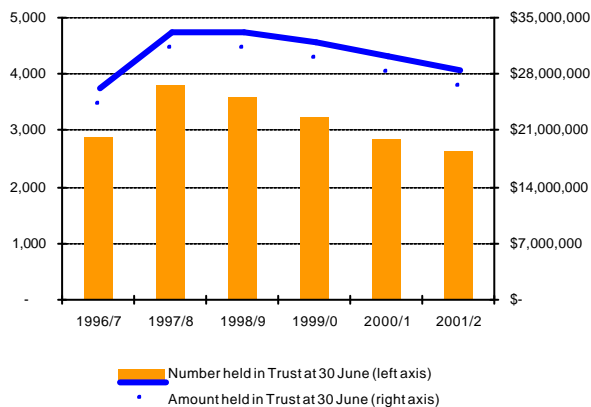
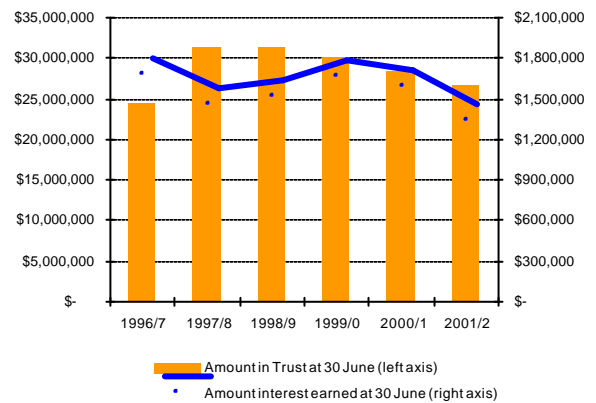


Chart 28

Comparison of amount invested in Trust and interest earned at 30 June, 1996/97 - 2001/02



²⁹ Amounts awarded to minors and persons who, in the opinion of the Tribunal are unable to administer their own finances, are held in trust by the Tribunal for that person as directed by the Tribunal member. Most amounts held in Trust relate to children under the age of 18 years old.

³⁰ The decrease since 1997/98 in the amount held in Trust is consistent with the decrease in the number of awards made where the victim was aged 18 years or below at the time of the offence leading to the application to the Tribunal.

³¹ Amounts rounded to the nearest dollar. The statistics and amounts detailed in this Annual Report may differ to previous reports due to revisions to counting rules. Data may also vary between Annual Reports as statistical reports generated on different occasions may differ due to the dynamic nature of the Courtlink database, which is the source of statistical data.

OPERATING STATEMENT

The Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal is allocated a budget each financial year. The Tribunal is required to assign a percentage of this budget to the operating costs and associated expenses incurred such as salaries, office equipment, stationery, training courses and property utilities. The salaries and operating costs for the period 1998/99 - 2001/02, and the operating statement for the 2001/02 financial year are presented below.

Table 16
Salaries and operating costs, 1998/99 - 2001/02

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Salaries and operating costs	\$1,162,007	\$1,184,686	\$1,241,949	\$1,386,807

Table 17
Operating statement for the year ending 30 June 2002

	Budget	Actuals
Employee Related Costs		
Salaries	\$861,937	\$769,639 ³²
Overtime	-	-
Total salaries and overtime	\$861,937	\$769,639
WorkCover	\$6,000	\$5,105
Provision for long service leave	\$5,000	\$-3,517
Payroll tax	\$61,000	\$50,792
Fringe benefits tax	-	\$548
Superannuation	\$72,000	\$72,709
Total subsidiary salary costs	\$144,000	\$125,637
Travel & personal expenses	\$10,000	\$10,564
Printing stationery & office requisites	\$100,000	\$112,757
Postage and communication expenses	\$22,008	\$25,550
Contractors & professional services ³³	\$147,726	\$161,134
Training and development	\$10,000	\$9,987
Motor vehicle expenses	\$5,000	\$4,500
Other operating expenses	\$9,996	\$6,681
Information technology	\$65,000	\$69,178
Property related expenses	\$88,333	\$91,180
Total operating expenditure	\$458,063	\$491,531
Total special appropriations	\$1,464,000	\$1,386,807

³² This figure does not include Magistrates' salaries which are also drawn from the Special Appropriation budget. This figure provides only for administrative staff salaries.

³³ This expenditure related to the enhancements / development of the Tribunals' case management system (Courtlink).

LOCALITY OF OF FENCES BY NON-METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Table 18

Number of awards made by non-metropolitan local government area where offence occurred, 2001/02 ³⁴

Local Government Area	CIC Act	VOCA Act	Total Awards	Local Government Area	CIC Act	VOCA Act	Total Awards
Alpine	-	7	7	Moyne	-	5	5
Ararat	-	4	4	Murrindindi	-	8	8
Bacchus Marsh	-	6	6	Northern Grampians	-	9	9
Bairnsdale	-	6	6	Portland	-	1	1
Ballarat	3	91	94	Pyrenees	-	1	1
Bass Coast	1	5	6	Queenscliffe	-	1	1
Baw Baw	-	21	21	South Gippsland	-	18	18
Buloke	-	4	4	Southern Grampians	1	13	14
Campaspe	-	18	18	Southern Rural	-	1	1
Central Goldfields	-	7	7	Strathbogje	-	14	14
Colac Otway	-	3	3	Surfcoast	-	2	2
Corangamite	1	3	4	Swan Hill	-	23	23
Delatite	3	13	16	Towong	-	1	1
East Gippsland	-	25	25	Warrnambool	1	28	29
Gannawarra	-	2	2	Wellington	-	17	17
Glenelg	6	10	16	West Wimmera	-	-	-
Golden Plains	-	-	-	Wodonga	-	12	12
Greater Bendigo	2	56	58	Yarriambiack	-	-	-
Greater Geelong	6	146	152	Total - Country	35	778	813
Greater Shepparton	-	33	33				
Hepburn	-	8	8				
Hindmarsh	-	1	1				
Horsham	1	8	9				
Indigo	-	2	2				
Kilmore	-	3	3				
La Trobe	3	32	35				
Lodden	-	3	3				
Macedon Ranges	2	7	9				
Marong	-	5	5				
Milawa	-	9	9				
Mildura	-	48	48				
Mitchell	1	3	4				
Moira	1	6	7				
Moorabool	2	-	2				
Morwell	1	22	23				
Mount Alexander	-	7	7				

³⁴ *CIC Act* refers to awards made under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983*. *VOCA Act* refers to awards made under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*.

The data contained in this table are sourced from the application form lodged with the Tribunal.

Total of awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where no expenses were incurred by the Tribunal (recorded as 'other disposal' in Table 2).

LOCALITY OF OFFENCES BY METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Table 19

Number of awards made by metropolitan local government area where offence occurred, 2001/02 ³⁵

Local Government Area	<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983</i>	<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996</i>	Total Awards
Banulye	-	57	57
Bayside	1	19	20
Boroondara	-	45	45
Brimbank	2	120	122
Cardinia	-	26	26
Casey	3	91	94
Darebin	2	92	94
Frankston	-	91	91
Glen Eira	-	26	26
Greater Dandenong	4	103	107
Hobsons Bay	-	23	23
Hume	4	65	69
Kingston	3	63	66
Knox	5	41	46
Manningham	-	31	31
Maribyrnong	-	43	43
Maroondah	4	31	35
Melbourne	5	194	199
Melton	-	17	17
Monash	1	59	60
Mooney Valley	1	35	36
Moreland	4	51	55
Mornington Peninsula	1	48	49
Nillimbik	-	8	8
Port Phillip	2	68	70
Stonnington	-	45	45
Werribee	-	7	7
Whitehorse	-	12	12
Whittlesea	1	27	28
Wyndham	1	33	34
Yarra	2	72	74
Yarra Ranges	-	30	30
Total	46	1,673	1,719

³⁵ The data contained in this table are sourced from the application form lodged with the Tribunal.

Total of awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where no expenses were incurred by the Tribunal (recorded as 'other disposal' in Table 2).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF VICTIMS WHERE AWARD MADE

Table 20

Number of awards made by occupation / profession of victim, 2001/02 ³⁶

Occupation	<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983</i>	<i>Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996</i>	Total Awards
Actor / artist	-	6	6
Bank & building society employee	-	12	12
Children	2	65	67
Clerical	-	55	55
Driver	1	39	40
Factory worker	2	35	37
Farmer / farm employee	-	9	9
Home duties	15	318	333
Hotel & restaurant employee	-	39	39
Labourer	1	43	44
Lawyer	-	4	4
Manager	1	48	49
Medical practitioner	-	6	6
Nursing staff	2	48	50
Pensioner	5	148	153
Police officer	-	34	34
Prison officer	-	1	1
Professional	-	47	47
Process server	-	2	2
Public service employee	-	12	12
Public transport employee	-	3	3
Retired	-	51	51
Sales person	-	53	53
Security guard	-	18	18
Self employed	-	15	15
Service station employee	-	25	25
Storeman	-	12	12
Student	24	384	408
Taxi driver	-	14	14
Technician	-	14	14
Tradesperson	2	103	105
Unemployed	14	183	197
Other	12	605	617
Total	81	2,451	2,532

³⁶ The data contained in this table are sourced from the application form lodged with the Tribunal.

Total of awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where no expenses were incurred by the Tribunal (recorded as 'other disposal' in Table 2).

AWARDS MADE BY OFFENCE DESCRIPTION

Table 21

Number of awards made by description of offence leading to application, 2001/02 ³⁷

Criminal act (as contained in application)	Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1983			Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996			Total Awards
	Male Victim	Female Victim	Total	Male Victim	Female Victim	Total	
Aggravated burglary	-	2	2	32	41	73	75
Armed robbery – bank	-	-	-	1	5	6	6
Armed robbery	-	1	1	132	82	214	215
Arson	-	-	-	0	2	2	2
Assault – O.A.B.H. ³⁸	-	-	-	16	2	18	18
Assault and robbery	1	-	1	26	30	56	57
Assault by kicking	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Assault	19	14	33	562	360	922	955
Assault with a weapon	-	-	-	46	18	64	64
Attempted murder	-	-	-	20	16	36	36
Burglary	-	-	-	9	7	16	16
Cause injury intentionally or recklessly	1	-	1	61	35	96	97
Cause serious injury	1	2	3	30	12	42	45
Culpable driving	-	-	-	22	40	62	62
Indecent assault / attempted rape	6	19	25	69	237	306	331
Incest	-	1	1	9	29	38	39
Kidnapping / false imprisonment	-	-	-	2	5	7	7
Manslaughter	-	-	-	3	10	13	13
Murder	3	1	4	107	134	241	245
Negligently cause serious injury	1	-	1	1	2	3	4
Other offences	1	1	2	29	73	102	104
Rape	2	4	6	13	78	91	97
Theft	1	-	1	-	1	1	2
Threats	-	-	-	-	7	7	7
Threats to kill	-	-	-	9	22	31	31
Attempt to apprehend offender	-	-	-	2	-	2	2
Trying to prevent commission of offence	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Total	36	45	81	1,203	1,248	2,451	2,532

³⁷ The data contained in this table are sourced from the application form lodged with the Tribunal.

Total of awards made excludes applications that were finalised by way of interim awards being made or where no expenses were incurred by the Tribunal (recorded as 'other disposal' in Table 2).

³⁸ OABH refers to the offence description of 'occasioning actual bodily harm'.

TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

Chief Magistrate

Ian Leslie **Gray**

Deputy Chief Magistrates

Brian Stirtevant **Barrow**,
Daniel John **Muling**
Jelena **Popovic**

State Co-ordinating Magistrate

Paul **Grant**

State Coroner

Graeme Douglas **Johnstone**

Deputy State Coroner

Iain Treloar **West**

Magistrates

Henry Clive **Alsop**
Kathryn Helen **Auty**
Raffaele **Barberio**
Thomas Arthur Dent **Barrett**
Edwin Charles **Batt**
Maxwell Charles Speedie **Beck**
Isaac Joseph **Beder**
Ross Frederick **Betts**
Susan Adele **Blashki**
Angela Joy **Bolger**
Jennifer Carolyn Anne **Bowles**
Barry Bernard **Braun**
Leonard Harold **Brear**
Felicity Anne **Broughton**
James Maxwell Brooke **Cashmore**
Brian Joseph **Clifford**
Bernard Joseph **Coburn**
Ann Elizabeth **Collins**
Barbara Ann **Cotterell**
David Bruce Sidney **Cottrill**
Peter **Couzens**
Rodney Leslie **Crisp**
Jillian Mary **Crowe**
John William **Doherty**
John Philip **Dugdale**
Caitlin Creed **English**
Julian Francis **Fitz-Gerald**
Lesley Ann **Fleming**
Roger Wilson **Franich**
William Paterson **Gibb**
Phillip **Goldberg**
Jennifer Anne Benn **Goldsbrough**
Maurice **Gurvich**

Harold Rupert **Hallenstein**
Lisa Anne **Hannan**
Harley James **Harber**
Margaret Gill **Harding**
John William **Hardy**
Thomas Kevin **Hassard**
Kate Isabella **Hawkins**
Jacinta Mary **Heffey**
Francis William **Hender**
Louis Joseph **Hill**
Francis Ross **Hodgens**
Frank William Dudley **Jones**
Jonathon George **Klestadt**
Robert Krishnan Ashkok **Kumar**
Elizabeth Anne **Lambden**
Catherine Frances **Lamble**
Peter Henry **Lauritsen**
Gregory John Zalman **Levine**
Keith William **Lewis**
Colin Eunan **Macleod**
Kay Helen **Macpherson**
Lance Ivan **Martin**
Anne Jeanette **Maughan**
Timothy John **McDonald**
Ian Thomas **McGrane**
Rowan George **McIndoe**
Clive James **McPherson**
Peter Harry **Mealy**
Michael Francis **Moloney**
John Martin **Murphy**
John Charles **Myers**
William John George **O'Day**
Thomas Michael **O'Dwyer**

Denise Mary **O'Reilly**
Kim Michelle Willmott **Parkinson**
Jane Marie Josephine **Patrick**
Peter Thomas **Power**
Noel Brian **Purcell**
Steven **Raleigh**
Duncan Keith **Reynolds**
Ronald Norman **Saines**
Michael Leslie **Smith**
Paul Anthony **Smith**
Paresa Antoniadis **Spanos**
Alan John **Spillane**
Heather Margaret **Spooner**
Christine Anne **Stewart-Thornton**
Michael Henry Lewis **Stone**
Noreen Mary **Toohey**
Robert Leslie **Tuppen**
Ian Maxwell **von Einem**
Susan Melissa **Wakeling**
Hugh Malcolm **Walter**
William Peter **White**
Wendy Anne **Wilmoth**
Brian Philip **Wynn-Mackenzie**

Acting Magistrates

Barry Francis **Docking**
Philip John **Rodda**
William Desmond **Martin**
Terry John **Wilson**
James Stanislaus **Mornane**
Lewis Phillip **Byrne**
Lional **Winton-Smith**
John Douglas **Bolster**

CATEGORIES OF ASSISTANCE AND ENTITLEMENTS

The following table details categories of victims of crime and assistance that may be awarded in relation to each victim category under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*.

Category	Criteria	Amount of assistance	Type of assistance
Primary victim	<p>A person who is injured or dies as a direct result of an act of violence committed against him/her.</p> <p>A person is also a primary victim if he/she is injured as a direct result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trying to arrest someone whom he or she believes on reasonable grounds has committed an act of violence or; trying to prevent the commission of the act of violence; or trying to aid or rescue someone whom he or she believes on reasonable grounds is a victim of an act of violence – whether or not an act of violence is actually committed. 	Up to \$60,000 plus up to \$7,500 in special financial assistance	<p>Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> special financial assistance; counselling; medical expenses; up to \$20,000 loss of earnings; damage to clothing; and in exceptional circumstances – “other” expenses to assist in the recovery of the victim.
Secondary victim	<p>A person who is present at the scene of an act of violence and injured as a direct result of witnessing the act.</p> <p>A person is also a secondary victim if he/she is injured as a direct result of becoming aware of an act of violence and is the parent/guardian of a primary victim under 18 years of age</p>	Up to \$50,000	<p>Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> counselling; medical expenses; in exceptional circumstances – loss of earnings up to \$20,000; and in exceptional circumstances – “other” expenses to assist in the recovery of the victim. <p>In exceptional circumstances where the secondary victim is under 18 years and has witnessed an act of violence upon certain family members, or the parent or guardian of a primary victim under 18 years who has become aware of the act of violence, the Tribunal may award other reasonable expenses to assist in the recovery of the applicant.</p>
Related victim	<p>A person who, at the time of the act of violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> was a close family member of; or was a dependant of; or had an intimate personal relationship with the primary victim who has died as a result of the act of violence. <p>Related Victims are not required to suffer an injury to be entitled to assistance.</p>	Up to \$50,000 for any one related victim, but cumulative amount of \$100,000 for all related victims in total.	<p>Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> counselling; medical expenses; funeral expenses; distress (lump sum payments); dependency; and in exceptional circumstances – “other” expenses to assist in the recovery of the victim.
Section 15 - assistance for funeral expenses	A person who has incurred funeral expenses as a result of the death of a primary victim and who is not a related victim.		<p>Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funeral expenses

CATEGORIES OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE

The following table presents the four categories of special financial assistance that may be awarded by the Tribunal under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996*, the acts of violence relevant to each category and the minimum / maximum amounts that may be awarded.

Category	Acts of violence and classes of acts of violence	Minimum award level	Maximum award level
A	Any offence that involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sexual penetration of a person; or • attempted murder 	\$3500	\$7500
B	Any offence that involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempted sexual penetration of a person; or • an indecent act with, or indecent assault against, a person; or • armed robbery; or • aggravated burglary; or • the deprivation of liberty of a person for the purpose of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual penetration, or • demanding any ransom for their release 	\$1000	\$2500
C	Any offence that involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an attempt to commit a category B act of violence; or • a threat of death; or • conduct endangering life; or • inflicting serious injury; or • robbery 	\$500	\$1000
D	Any offence that involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an attempt to commit a category C act of violence; or • a threat of injury; or • an assault against a person; or • an attempted assault; or • the deprivation of the liberty of a person, excluding a category B act of violence; or • an act of violence not otherwise specified as a category A,B,C or D act of violence. 	\$100	\$500