

**Submission
No 5**

FOLLOW UP OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S 2012 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

Organisation: Attorney General & Justice
Name: Mr Laurie Glanfield
Position: Director General
Date Received: 2/07/2013



The Hon Jonathan O'Dea, MP
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

28 JUN 2013

Dear Mr O'Dea

Repeat Recommendations of the Auditor General's 2012 Financial Audits

I refer to your letter of 17 May 2013 in which you request that I provide the Public Accounts Committee with a submission outlining my Department's response to the Auditor General's 2012 recommendation in relation to Victims Compensation.

In October 2012, Cabinet approved the replacement of the Victims Compensation Scheme to a new financially sustainable model called the Victims Support Scheme.

The Victims Support Services Bill was introduced into Parliament on 7 May 2013 to legislate for a victims' compensation scheme which will focus upon the ongoing support and treatment of victims with minimal reliance upon lump sum payments.

The bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament on 30 May 2013 and assented to on 3 June 2013 establishing the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 No 37 (VRSA).

In addition to the above measures Treasury will provide my Department with a further one-off Grant of \$130million, in equal instalments, across the 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years to fund the unresolved claims that were lodged under the old compensation scheme. This will extinguish the backlog of claims.

The Victims Support Scheme is designed within the budget to provide fast and effective payment of matters and to minimise the risk of any potential backlog.

I am enclosing a copy of my Department's response.

Yours sincerely

Laurie Glanfield
Director General

2012 Financial Audits - Implementation of repeat recommendations

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED OR REJECTED	ACTIONS TAKEN	DUE DATE	STATUS (Completed, on track, delayed) and COMMENT	RESPONSIBILITY (Section of agency responsible for implementation)
<p>1 The Department pursue initiatives to address the backlog of victims compensation claims, which now represent more than four years of claims and have more than tripled since 2006. Such initiatives will need to take account of the findings of the independent assessment of the scheme.</p>	ACCEPTED	<p>In October 2012, Cabinet approved replacement of the current Victims Compensation Scheme to a new financially sustainable model called the Victims Support Scheme (VSS). The Victims Support Services Bill was introduced into Parliament on 7 May 2013 to legislate for a victims compensation scheme which will focus upon the ongoing support and treatment of victims, with minimal reliance upon lump sum payments.</p> <p>The bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament on 30 May 2013 and assented to on 3 June 2013 establishing the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 No 37 (VRSA).</p> <p>In addition to the above measures Treasury will provide Victims Services with a further one-off Grant of \$130million in equal instalments across the 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years to fund unresolved claims lodged in the old compensation scheme subsequently extinguishing the backlog of claims. The new scheme is designed within the budget to provide fast and effective payment of matters and to minimise the risk of any potential backlog.</p>	30 June 2015	To commence in 2013-14 Financial Year	Victims Services