

GUIDE TO STATEMENT OF IMPACT



Purpose of the Statement of Impact

The Statement of Impact is your opportunity to let the Assessor know how the offence has impacted upon your life. The Assessor relies upon this document when assessing the amount you receive for injury and loss. It allows you to explain how the offence has impacted upon you:

- Physically;
- Emotionally;
- Socially; and
- Financially.



Format of the Statement of Impact

There is no prescribed format for the Statement of Impact. For example, it can be in the form of a signed statement, a letter to the Assessor, a list of "dot points" or a statutory declaration.

It can be typed or handwritten, however if handwritten please ensure it is legible.

You can write as little or as much as you like.



Can someone else write the Statement of Impact for you

The Statement of Impact is about you, so it's important your thoughts and feelings are in your own words.

If you are unwell or have a physical or intellectual impairment that prevents you from preparing a statement, you can ask someone else to prepare it for you. This may include a parent, partner, friend, carer or support worker. A parent can prepare a Statement for Impact for a child.

If you are writing the Statement of Impact on behalf of someone, please explain why the applicant cannot prepare their own Statement of Impact. Try to use that person's words, not your own, and ensure it reflects their thoughts, feelings and emotions (not your own).

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What to include in the Statement of Impact

The assessor wants to hear from you how the offence impacted you, in your own words. When addressing the impact you may wish to cover the following topics.



Physical impact

- The injuries you sustained (such as bruises, broken bones, lacerations etc).
- The treatment you had for those injuries, including whether you attended a hospital, your general practitioner, a specialist, a physiotherapist or other allied health practitioner, or required any medications. Remember to include any ongoing or future treatment you may need.
- How those injuries impacted your life. Consider whether the injuries impacted your ability to:
 - Work;
 - Play sport;
 - Engage in leisure and recreational activities;
 - Undertake the activities of daily living such as caring for yourself or your family, to complete household tasks or to drive.
- Whether you have any permanent physical restrictions from the injuries. Examples include such things as difficulties when walking long distances or up stairs, lifting heavy objects, eating particular foods, moving the injured body part in a particular way or scarring.



Emotional impact

- Describe any emotions or feelings related to the offence (such as hurt, fear, anger, shame or frustration).
- The psychological impact of the offence, and whether you have a psychological injury (such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder).
- The treatment you had for those psychological injuries, including whether you attended a general practitioner, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a hospital or required any medications. Remember to include any ongoing or future treatment you may need.
- How those emotions or psychological injuries impacted your life. Consider whether the injuries impacted:
 - Your relationships with your partner, family, friends, co-workers;
 - Your ability to:
 - Work;
 - Sleep;
 - Eat;
 - Engage in leisure and recreational activities;
 - Undertake the activities of daily living such as caring for yourself or your family.

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Social impact

Describe the difficulty the offence has caused in your daily life, including the impact on:

- Family life;
- Spending time with friends or attending social events;
- Accessing the community;
- Sporting or club commitments;
- How safe you feel.

If the offence caused the death of a loved one, you may wish to describe how your life has changed and what you miss most about them.



Financial impact

This may include:

- Any clothing or other personal items (including prescription glasses, or a hearing aid) you were wearing, and which were damaged in the course of the offence;
- Loss of earnings. If claiming for loss of earnings, ensure you explain:
 - Where you were working, what your role was and what you were earning when the offence occurred. (If you were not working at the time provide details of your attempts to find work or details of the study you were undertaking and when you planned to commence work and in what type of role).
 - How your injuries prevented you from working.
 - Specify the periods you were totally unable to work, the periods you were able to work part time or on a restricted duties and explain the reduction in your income as a result
 - If you returned to work in a different role, or changed employment as a result of the incident, explain any financial impact of this.
- Travel expenses. (You should have separately itemised the travel expenses in your application form. There is no need to repeat the specific details of each item of travel if you have done so. However, it is helpful to provide an explanation of more complex expenses such as airfares, hotel accommodation and hire vehicles).
- Medical expenses. (You should have separately itemised the medical expenses in your application form and there is no need to repeat the individual expenses if you have done so. However, it is helpful to provide an explanation of anticipated future treatment expenses).

If the offence caused the death of a loved one upon who you were financially dependent, provide an explanation of their earnings and what they paid for in the household budget or what monies they gave to you on a regular basis prior to their death.