

WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICE

We can help you

CONTACT

T 9603 7425

T 1800 641 927 for country callers

E was@opp.vic.gov.au

www.opp.vic.gov.au



OFFICE of
PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS
VICTORIA

WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICE

WHO WE ARE

- The Witness Assistance Service is part of the Office of Public Prosecutions (OPP). The OPP prosecutes serious crime in Victoria.
- We assist victims and witnesses of serious crime throughout the prosecution process.
- We are a specialist service with professionally qualified staff who understand the criminal justice process.
- We are not Witness Protection but we will help you make arrangements for giving evidence and address any concerns you have about your safety when going to court.

WHAT WE DO

- We provide information and support to adult victims and witnesses of serious crime.
- We are part of the prosecution team – the police, OPP solicitor and Crown Prosecutor (who presents the case in court).
- We prioritise assistance and support to families who have lost loved ones; victims and witnesses in sexual assault and family violence matters; and vulnerable victims.
- We are not able to discuss your statement or any of the evidence with you, but we will support you through the process of giving evidence.

OUR SERVICE

We can give you information about:

- the court process
- your rights and entitlements in relation to the court process
- the status of the matter and court hearing dates
- giving evidence, and what you should expect during the court process
- completing a Victim Impact Statement
- the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal, Victims' Register and making a submission to the Adult Parole Board.

We can:

- provide support and assistance when you need it
- meet with you before major court hearings and support you during this time particularly if you are feeling anxious
- give you a tour of the court where the matter will be heard and explain the various roles of court staff
- answer any questions you may have about the court process
- discuss any concerns you have about your safety while in court or giving evidence
- debrief with you after court hearings
- arrange with the OPP solicitor to provide you with an interpreter
- refer you to other agencies for additional support.