

Escaping Violence Payment Trial Fact Sheet

Information for referring agencies

About the Escaping Violence Payment

The Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) offers financial assistance and confidential support to help people move forward and set up a home that's free from violence.

The violence can be:

- Physically, verbally or sexually abusive
- Emotionally, spiritually or psychologically abusive
- Economically abusive
- Threatening, coercive, or seeking to control or dominate the other person.

The EVP program can help re-establish safety after leaving a family violence situation, or if your client has a safe and secure plan to leave and needs financial help and other supports. Alternately, the perpetrator may have left or been removed, creating financial stress with rent, bills and other debt. It can also be used to assist with moving to permanent accommodation from a shelter.

The EVP program provides individualised packages that are tailored to enable victim survivor choice and autonomy, shaped alongside victim survivors to include what they need. An EVP package can consist of up to \$1500 in cash (or cash equivalent including vouchers where this is safer) and other goods, as well as wraparound support provided by the EVP, depending on need. This might include removalists, rental assistance, bond or basics for a new home, as well as case worker support.

People needing this assistance may contact the program directly at:

<https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-violence-payment/> or can be supported by a referring agency or worker.

The EVP program is available if a person meets these eligibility requirements:

- Australian citizen or permanent resident aged over 18, living in Australia and have not accessed EVP in the last 12 months.
- Within 12 weeks of leaving or a perpetrator leaving their normal shared place of residence because of intimate partner, family or domestic violence, or if there is a safe, secure plan in place to leave soon.
- Experiencing financial stress, are unable to meet financial commitments and maintain financial independence through these changed living circumstances

The EVP is available to all eligible individuals, regardless of gender.

How do I access the Escaping Violence Payment?

The EVP is being managed by Uniting, with program partners in each state. Agencies or workers can check eligibility and submit applications here via the referring agencies button: <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-violence-payment/>

Additional information for agencies

In the weeks since the EVP Program Trial was announced, some frequent questions and requests for clarification have been raised and we've addressed them below.

Family Domestic Violence

EVP applies where a perpetrator of violence is someone who is an intimate partner that the victim survivor normally resides with.



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Cash component

The EVP package can include provision of up to \$1,500 cash or cash equivalent, based on the needs of and in consultation with the victim survivor. For instance, a prepaid debit card may be used, or a combination of cash, debit card and vouchers may be an option that suits the needs of the person needing supporting.

Accessing multiple programs

There is no restriction on providing EVP to someone accessing other programs. Please be aware there may be restrictions from other programs and grants about accessing multiple payments or programs.

A principle of EVP is to not duplicate other services including there being no doubling up on sourcing funding for the same item or cost from EVP and other program.

Time frames for accessing EVP

The EVP program is designed to help people to create safe living arrangements after a change of living circumstances because of intimate partner violence.

The violence does not need to have occurred within the last 12 weeks, it is the change of living circumstances due violence; the act of leaving or having the perpetrator leave the home that should be within this time frame. EVP could be used to facilitate a move from a women's shelter. The violence may have occurred longer than 12 weeks ago, but the move from the women's shelter to a rented home is current and is the result of family or domestic violence.

Financial liquidity

This is not an asset tested program. It is designed for people leaving a family or domestic violence situation who are also experiencing financial difficulty.

Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident

This is a Commonwealth program and is open to Australian citizens or permanent residents living in Australia. The Red Cross may be able to assist with packages for people on temporary visas, or with uncertain visa status, experiencing family and domestic violence and in need of financial support.

<https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/help-for-migrants-in-transition/family-and-domestic-violence-financial-assistance>

How quickly can my client access the EVP if they are eligible?

Eligibility will be determined as quickly as possible, noting the program is currently experiencing high demand. **Please be aware that this is not a crisis service.** If your client needs immediate assistance, call emergency services 000 or 1800 RESPECT.

