

Escaping Violence Payment Trial Fact Sheet

Information for referring agencies (updated March 2022)

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 EVP program can assist people to establish a home free from violence after leaving a relationship where they experienced intimate partner violence, or where the perpetrator has left or been removed from the home, creating financial stress with rent, bills, and other debt. The EVP can also assist people to leave if they have a safe and secure plan to leave and need financial assistance and other supports to do so.

The EVP program provides individualised packages of up to \$5,000 tailored to enable choice and autonomy. An EVP package consists of \$1500 in cash (or cash equivalent, based on your client's needs and preferences) and other goods, services and supports depending on need. This might include removalists, rental assistance, bond or basics for a new home, as well as counselling 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.
- Within 12 weeks of leaving or a perpetrator leaving their normal shared place of residence because of intimate partner violence, or if there is a safe, secure plan in place to leave soon (including from a refuge or temporary accommodation).
- Experiencing financial stress, are unable to meet financial commitments and maintain financial independence through these changed living circumstances.
- Have not accessed EVP in the last 12 months

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 time 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 person requiring assistance. For instance, a prepaid debit card may be used, or a combination of cash, debit card and vouchers may be an option that better reflects the needs of the person needing support.

Accessing multiple programs

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

Please also be aware that the EVP, if granted first, would be counted in liquid assets for the Crisis Payment for Extreme Circumstances Family and Domestic Violence from Services Australia.

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 create safe living arrangements after a change of living circumstances because of family or domestic violence.

The violence does not need to have occurred within the last 12 weeks, it is the act of leaving or having the perpetrator leave the home that should be within this time frame. For example, the 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 intimate partner violence.

Financial liquidity

This is not an asset tested program. It is designed for people leaving a violent intimate partner situation who are 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 specifically for people on temporary visas, or with uncertain visa status, experiencing family and domestic violence, 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.

