

Escaping Violence Payment Trial Fact Sheet

Information for applicants (updated September 2022)

About the Escaping Violence Payment

The Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) offers financial assistance and confidential support to help you move forward and set up a home free of intimate partner violence.

The payment is available to people who have experienced and have recently had (or are about to have) their living circumstance change due to intimate partner violence.

Intimate partner violence can be:

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

An intimate partner refers to a current or former romantic partner.

How does it work?

If you have recently left your home (or have a safe plan to leave soon) and are struggling with finances to live your life in safety, you could be eligible for up to \$5,000 financial assistance:

- Up to **\$1500** in cash (or cash equivalent based on your needs and preferences)
- Goods and services such as removalists, bonds or basics for a new home
- Wrap-around support including casework from the EVP provider.

The EVP will be individualised for you, based on your personal needs. **Please be aware that this is not an emergency response service.** If you are in danger now call **000**. If you need assistance with family and domestic violence contact **1800 RESPECT**.

We will aim to respond to your initial enquiry within 2 business days. If you are eligible, you will be linked with an EVP worker to discuss your package and provide support in identifying needs, goals and priorities. The EVP worker can also link you with other services that you might need.

Am I eligible?

EVP is available to you if you:

- are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or holder of a protected special category visa over the age of 18, living in Australia.
- have changed your living arrangements within the last 12 weeks due to violence by your partner (you have left, or your partner has left your home, or you have left a subsequent refuge or temporary residence), or you have a safe plan in place to leave soon (including from a refuge or temporary accommodation).
- are experiencing financial stress which is impacting on your ability to maintain financial commitments and independence through these changed living circumstances.
- have not accessed EVP in the past 12 months.

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

How do I access the payment?

- If you already have a case worker, speak with them about the EVP and they can help you with your eligibility and application.
- If you are not connected to a case worker or support service, you can contact the EVP team who can assist you with the application process at: <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-violence-payment/>
- Your eligibility will be determined as quickly as possible but high levels of demand might delay response. **Please be aware that this is not an emergency response service**, if you need immediate assistance, call 000.

Other support available

There are a range of other services available to help you establish a safe home environment, these include:

- **Keeping Women Safe in their Homes (KWSITH)** helps women and their children who have experienced family and domestic violence to remain in their homes or a home of their choosing, when it is safe and appropriate to do so. [Keeping Women Safe in their Homes | Department of Social Services, Australian Government \(dss.gov.au\)](#)
- **Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot** provides financial assistance to people on temporary visas who may be experiencing family and domestic violence and financial hardship. [Family and domestic violence financial assistance | Australian Red Cross](#)
- **Emergency Relief** to provide one-off assistance to individuals with no or low income or those experiencing other life-changing events. This can include food, transport, clothing, budgeting assistance and utility assistance. [Emergency Relief | Department of Social Services, Australian Government \(dss.gov.au\)](#)
- **National Debt Helpline** provides over the phone Financial Counselling. The 1800 007 007 telephone service provides a single contact point for people to access financial counselling, either immediately on the phone, or via a referral to your closest Financial Counselling service. [Welcome Page - National Debt Helpline \(ndh.org.au\)](#)
- **No Interest Loans** provides loans up to \$2000 for essential goods and services with no fees and no interest. [No Interest Loans | Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand](#)



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