



VICTIM
SUPPORT
SERVICE
INCORPORATED

Leave a Bequest

to Victim Support Service Inc.

Victim Support Service (VSS) is a community based, not-for-profit organisation, which was the first of its kind in Australia. Most victims' services are government agencies, but we are an independently incorporated body, not a government agency.

We have a Board of Management, highly motivated professional volunteers and staff who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for people who have suffered as a result of a crime.

Our role is to provide free information, counselling and advocacy services for individuals, their families, friends and the wider community. We also conduct a range of therapeutic support groups for victims, and offer training/consultancy to other agencies.

VSS was started by, and is still only possible through, the work of its volunteer workforce – helping to publicise our services to community groups, being companions in court, assisting in our library and many other administration areas.

We thank all our volunteers and supporters including: SA Attorney-General's Department, Department of Families and Communities; sponsors CPS Credit Union; Community Benefit SA, donors and members for their support.

We need your financial support:

Crime rates are high and justice and health services are estimated to cost \$32 billion in Australia every year. South Australia Police record about 250,000 victimisations annually and over a million people are affected by crime in South Australia every year.

We assist people who have been affected by any crime from theft or fraud to home invasion, sexual assault and murder. Referrals have increased constantly since 1996 – we need increased funding to assist more victims.

Your bequest will help reduce the shortfall we have between regular income and our operational budget. We have plans to use your bequest to:

- help address the elderly's fear of crime
- support crime prevention programs
- develop services to victims from diverse cultural backgrounds
- increase counselling capacity
- advocate to improve services to children who are victims of crime

Client Comments

"The people at VSS are caring and make you feel comfortable about talking things out. Each time I have counselling I feel a bit better."

"The counselling I received at VSS has helped me to overcome much of my anger, fear and frustration. Even though I lost the court case I won, because I now have the determination, encouragement and strength to stand up for myself."

"In desperation I rang VSS and spoke to a counsellor who told me what I was going through was normal. I know it will take time but with the continuing support from VSS I will make it."

"I came to VSS and was involved in a group – I heard their stories and shared their tears – we supported each other. I know now that life is not all bad."

"Thanks to VSS for their help and support - it really got me through those dark days. I also found talking to other people who had been through similar experiences very helpful."

"VSS supported and advocated for me to enable me to have a mediation with the offender. This has allowed me to close the door and move ahead."

Bequest Information

Please telephone or email if you would like more information about leaving a bequest to VSS. Significant bequests will be acknowledged in our Annual Report.

Other contributions:

Membership

Joining VSS is a practical step that enables you to support crime victims.

Donations

All donations are appreciated and significant contributions are acknowledged in our newsletter and annual report. Donations of \$2.00 or greater are tax deductible.

Funding

Your bequest will assist VSS to continue providing these valuable services to victims of crime – we must raise at least \$250,000 a year to maintain current operations and supplement the financial support given by the government, sponsorship, member fees and donations.