

Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney-General
Minister for Justice Reform

Thursday, 21 August, 2014

Victims of crime compensation to double

The State Government is taking steps to deliver a key election promise by presenting a draft Bill that doubles the compensation available for victims of crime.

The Bill amends the *Victims of Crime Act 2004* by lifting the maximum amount of compensation through the Victims of Crime Fund from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The grief payment will also double from \$10,000 to \$20,000, and – for the first time – minor children of adult victims of homicide will be eligible for this payment.

The amount available for funeral expenses will also double from \$7,000 to \$14,000.

Attorney-General John Rau said the draft Bill is now open for consultation.

“The compensation available from the Victims of Crime Fund has not increased since 1990, and while it can never make up for the harm and suffering that victims of crime endure, it can help people to recover.

“We promised during the State Election campaign that we would increase the payments available from the Fund, and we’re now taking steps to deliver on that promise to ensure victims and their families are better compensated.”

The draft Bill also indexes all compensation amounts so they keep pace with inflation, and increases fees for legal representatives undertaking work for victims of crime.

“The draft Bill has been circulated widely and, based on submissions we receive, a Bill for introduction into Parliament will be finalised.”

The draft bill can be viewed on the Attorney-General’s Department website:

www.agd.sa.gov.au

It is open for comment until 12 September.