

Payment for Lived Experience Expertise

About this document

This document gives you information about getting paid for working on the VOCC Lived Experience program.

We value your expertise and experience as a victim of crime and want to pay you for your work.

Who is this document for?

This document is for people with Lived Experience who are invited to participate in Lived Experience activities. This includes people who join the Lived Experience Advisory Group or people who are invited by the VOCC Office to participate in other activities such as focus groups or interviews, including those who are members of the Lived Experience Experts Network.

What will I be paid or reimbursed for?

When you start work with us, you will be sent an email with dates and times of activities.

This email will also let you know:

- How much you will be paid
- What kind of work it is and what you may need to do
- How much time you will need to take part in it
- How and when you will be paid
- Whether the activity is optional

We will refund some things that make it easier for you to attend work, such as transport and meals. We will agree in advance if these expenses relate to you. Please speak to us for more information

You will be paid for	You will not be paid for
• Planned meetings • Interviews, workshops and group sessions either in person or online (if you choose to take part in these) • Attending training organised by the VOCC Office	• Responding to emails and discussion with the VOCC Office, such as survey questions • Work during paid work time with your regular workplace

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- Attending an event as an audience member or as a member of the public (attendance is optional)
 - Applying to become a Lived Experience expert, including time spent in interviews
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Example

Bilak takes part in the VOCC Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG). The LEAG meets four times per year. Bilak is most comfortable communicating in Arabic.

Bilak attends orientation training and four LEAG meetings. The VOCC Office organises an interpreter to attend training, meetings and translate documents for Bilak in advance. Bilak also takes part in wellbeing support sessions in which the interpreter participates.

The VOCC Office pays for:

- Bilak's attendance at training, meetings and wellbeing activities
- The interpreter to be present at all training, meetings and wellbeing activities and to interpret documents.

Bilak is also refunded for public transport expenses to attend all face-to-face activities.

How will I get paid?

When you start work we will let you know how we will pay you and what details you need to provide.

Some things you should know:

- LEAG members must email an invoice to the VOCC Office within four weeks of the work taking place. Include the type of work you did and how much time it took you.
- LEEN Members - we will let you know what is required before you agree to do some work for the VOCC.
- Membership and participation in activities as part of the LEEN are unpaid unless specified otherwise.

Payments can affect your Centrelink benefits or increase your taxable income. You should be aware that you need to tell relevant government departments. You may like to get advice about how payments may affect this.

Who can I speak to for more information?

For further information about payment rate and the process, contact the Victim Engagement Team, Dagmar or Melissa at engagement@vocc.vic.gov.au

How much will I get paid?

There is a minimum payment of one hour per participant. After four hours, you will be paid the maximum payment capped at a daily rate (eight hours or less).

NOTE: Other than attending orientation and scheduled meetings, participation in any additional activities is optional.

Task	Payment rate
- Attend Orientation Program - Take part in meetings, interviews, workshops and focus groups (either in person or online.) - Add to or review documents (can include telephone calls and emails) - Attend training organised by the VOCC Office	\$63/hour if four hours or under Over four hours daily rate: \$335 \$37/hour
- Co-Chair role: - Facilitation support for meetings - Facilitation and presentation at orientation or training for VOCC Office staff An estimate of time for each activity should be agreed before you start work.	\$84/hour
- Represent the VOCC Office in the media or by public speaking - Tell your story to be posted on the VOCC website or social media - Take part in program or video development	\$63/hour
Payment of transport and other costs – to be approved before the cost is spent.	As per receipts

Task	Payment rate
• Travel to and from orientation and planned meetings and training by public transport or the safest way • The VOCC Office will try to make sure you can attend training and meetings without needing to travel and/or accomodation • The VOCC Office can pay for travel but not hours travelled	
LEAG members have the option to access wellbeing sessions to support them in their work with the VOCC Office. More detail is provided in the <i>LEAG Wellbeing Information Sheet</i> .	Access to up to 4 sessions of 1:1 support per year funded by the VOCC.
The VOCC Office will provide catering at meetings, training and events.	Orientation and meetings 1.5 hours and over will be catered.

Payment figures are based on government guidelines and hourly rates are aligned to other similar lived experience programs across the community and government sector. The rates above are current as of 31 January 2026 and will be reviewed annually. Any changes will be communicated with LEAG and LEEN members.