

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Racing



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NEW WEBSITE TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CRIME

Disadvantaged Victorians will have better access to legal information online thanks to a new Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) website.

Attorney-General Martin Pakula today launched the new website, which allows victims of crime to easily access and submit VOCAT's application forms when applying for a range of support services.

The website has the highest level of accessibility to ensure its functions and features can be used by people with disabilities, such as visual or physical impairments.

The upgrade makes it easier for people to navigate the site when using a mobile and tablet device, and it provides information in languages other than English.

The new website will also make it easier for Victorians living in rural and regional areas by allowing them to access information and submit forms online.

It addresses themes raised in the recently published *Access to Justice Review* which encourages courts to make better use of technology to assist people to access information about legal issues.

Traffic to VOCAT's old website increased by 17.3 per cent in the last financial year, demonstrating that more people are seeking to access VOCAT information online.

The new website has already received almost 4000 visitors and 110 online applications after it went live last month.

VOCAT was established 19 years ago and has received more than 86,000 applications for financial assistance and awarded \$693 million to victims of crime.

To access the new website, visit www.vocat.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General Martin Pakula

"This new website will allow victims of crime to more easily access information and submit forms online so they can get the support they need."

"This is about making sure everyone in our community can get the information they need anytime, anywhere."