



CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The ACT Government wants to improve the experiences of people who have contact with the criminal justice system as a victim of crime. We want to ensure that people who have experienced crime have useful information, support and are listened to in justice processes. This includes in their dealings with police, victim support, public prosecutions, courts and corrections.

What is the Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime?

The ACT Government will introduce a Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime that sets out:

1. the information, communication, case updates, support and respectful treatment people who have experienced crime can expect
2. opportunities for people who have experienced crime to participate in their case by being asked about key decisions as it moves through the justice system
3. how ACT justice agencies will interact with people who have experienced crime, and
4. how people who have experienced crime can complain if their Charter rights are not delivered and how complaints will be handled.

Who will be included in the Charter?

People who have experienced crime and have contacted ACT justice agencies will be covered by the Charter. Their immediate family members and dependents will also be included in some circumstances. People who have experienced serious crime may have enhanced rights under the Charter, such as more active participation opportunities.

What will the Charter offer for people who have experienced crime?

The Charter will help people who have experienced crime to:

- feel more confident to report crime
- understand justice processes

- access the information and support they need as their case moves through the criminal justice system
- give evidence and cooperate with justice processes
- be more involved in justice processes, if they wish to be
- feel safer and more supported.

Tell us what you think

The ACT Government wants to hear from you on what a Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime should include. Key questions we will ask are:

1. How would you prefer to **access information** about how the criminal justice system works and what information and support is available to someone who has experienced crime?
2. How would you want to **be kept up-to-date** about your case as it moves through the justice system?
3. How would you want to **access support** as someone who has experienced crime?
4. When would you want to **be included** in discussions and decisions about your case?
5. What would help you feel comfortable to **make a complaint** and how should it be handled?
6. Have you experienced, or are you concerned about, any **barriers** or experiences of discrimination when accessing the ACT justice system and victim support services? What were they and how could they be addressed in order for you to have equal access and feel supported?
7. Should information and support for people who have experienced crime be **opt-in**, so you can choose to access victim supports, **or opt-out** so this happens automatically?

Options for feedback

1. **Written feedback**

You can provide written feedback to:

Email: JACSLPP@act.gov.au (title: Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime)

Write to: Legislation, Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate
GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

2. **Online survey**

www.yoursay.act.gov.au

Complete a 15 minute YourSay [online survey](#). The survey is confidential and anonymous, and asks for feedback on specific options to increase the rights of people who have experienced crime.

3. **Discussion group or interview**

If you would prefer to discuss your feedback face-to-face, you can speak with Laura directly by contacting 02 6207 3997 or email JACSLPP@act.gov.au

Questions and updates

If you have questions or would like to receive an update on the consultation and on next steps in the Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime project, please contact:

Legislation, Policy and Programs
ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Phone **02 6207 3997**

Email JACSLPP@act.gov.au

Consultation is open until 6 August 2018.

www.yoursay.act.gov.au