

**Wednesday 27 March 2019 1600hrs**

**Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team**

- To assist those affected by the terror attacks on Friday 15 March 2019, the following supports for our population have been put in place.

### **Assistance from Victim Support**

- Victim Support can offer support to: families of the deceased; those injured and their families; other victims who were present at the attacks; others who have been severely traumatised as a direct result of the shootings (e.g. individuals who have lost a friend, colleague, neighbour, classmate).
- Please note: this support is subject to case-by-case assessment by Victim Support. To be eligible for funding, individuals must be assigned a Victim Support support worker.

Financial assistance **from Victim Support** for people in the above category:

- Pay for primary care costs (e.g., appointments, prescriptions, transport) if these cannot be covered by ACC or other organisations.
- Top-up payments made by ACC if the full cost of such expenses is not covered.
- Reimbursement by submitting a receipt to the patient's Victim Support support worker is the fastest method of covering these costs but we can consider other options.
- Fund up to 30 counselling/psychotherapy sessions, which can be arranged through the patient's support worker.
- Fund other costs arising from this event that are not covered by other organisations, case-by-case.
- The criteria for funding are evolving as needs are identified. Please notify Petrina Hargrave at Victim Support (Petrina.Hargrave@victimsupport.org.nz) if you become aware of any particular victim needs through your practice that we may be able to assist with funding.
- While we recognise that the wider public may be distressed by the events, Victim Support does not provide funding or emotional support for that group. We encourage members of the wider public distressed by the events to contact Need To Talk (free text or call to a trained counsellor) on 1737.
- If you need to refer a patient who meets our criteria to Victim Support please call our 24/7 Contact Service on 0800 842 846.

## Crisis Claim Support

- Two temporary funding claims are available to assist with general practice consultation fees.

### General Practice Response to the 15/03 Christchurch terror attack

- General Practitioners are able to claim a free or reduced patient co-payment for general practice consultations related to the 15/03 Christchurch terror attack, provided at the discretion of the General Practitioner.
- The consultation claim is up to \$55.00 + GST per GP consultation and is available until Sunday 7 April.

### Additional support from ACC

- ACC is providing additional support to people injured in the 15/03 Christchurch terror attack.
- This includes:
  - where a practice elects to waive or reduce the usual co-payment, ACC will pay the co-payment amount up to \$46 including GST (\$40 ex GST) for each visit. This additional support is available for visits until 26 April 2019.
  - setting up a team in the Christchurch ACC office to provide dedicated support for claims arising from injuries sustained in the attack.
  - currently providing cover for mental health injuries from the attack where:
    - there is a mental injury that is caused by a physical injury, or;
    - the mental injury occurred while they were working e.g. someone working at one of the mosques or someone driving to a job who directly witnessed the shooting (whether physically injured or not).
- Note: To invoice ACC for this increased co-payment you will need to update your PMS. Information on how to do this for your particular PMS is included in the attached documents.
- You can find further information on ACC support in the attached PDFs, or for a full summary of other available support for victims please visit the ACC website:

<https://www.acc.co.nz/about-us/news-media/latest-news/christchurch/>

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder, Dr Kim Burgess

Canterbury Primary Response Group

[www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz](http://www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz)