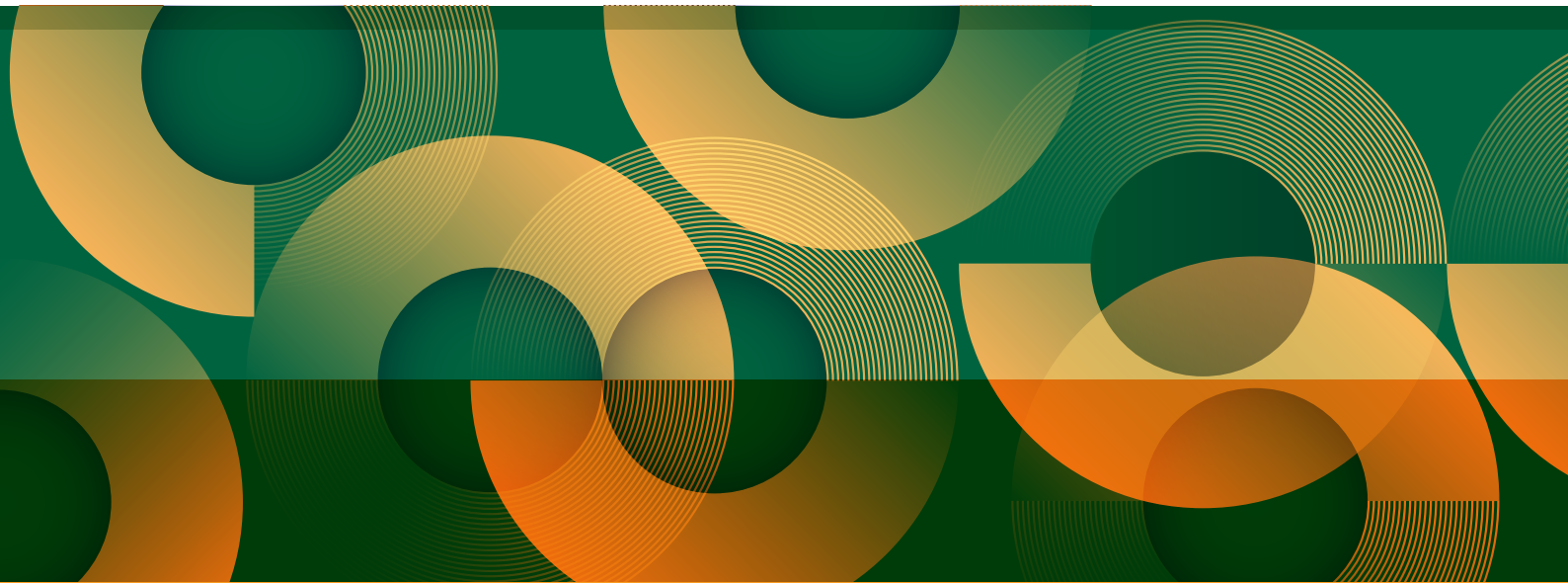




OFFICE OF CRIMINAL  
INJURIES COMPENSATION



**ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**



## CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

The Honourable John Quigley, MLA  
Attorney General of Western Australia  
5th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Attorney General

### **STATUTORY REPORT - CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION 2023/24**

Pursuant to section 62 of the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 2003* I submit my report on the operation of the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation for the year ending 30 June 2024.

Yours faithfully

*C. Holyoak-Roberts*

C Holyoak-Roberts  
CHIEF ASSESSOR OF CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

September 2024



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# CHIEF ASSESSOR'S OVERVIEW



Chief Assessor Holyoak-Roberts

Photo taken by Fionn Holyoak-Roberts

The workload of the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation (OCIC) continues to grow as illustrated by the statistics contained within this annual report. This year saw the retirement of Assessor Robert Guthrie in October 2023 and the full-time appointment of Assessor Alice Barter who joins the Office after an extensive career with the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) and the Coroner's Office. We were also fortunate to have had Assessor Mark Wallbridge and former Chief Assessor Helen Porter appointed both on a part-time basis to assist with workload during Assessor Guthrie's long service leave and subsequent retirement. Assessor Wallbridge was subsequently appointed full-time in April 2024 to cover my period of long service leave and to assist with the growing workload.

At the end of the financial year, the OCIC had 11,105 cases on hand, a 63.6% increase from 6,786 last financial year. Our finalisations increased by 179 (3%). We have strategies in place in our 2023 to 2025 Business Strategy to address the growing workload and improve finalisation outcomes.

\$81,147,434.00 was awarded to victims of crime in Western Australia, an increase of 1.9% from last year. Family and domestic violence related claims continue to dominate our workload comprising 41.2% of all matters finalised this year, a decrease of 6.8%. These statistics support the importance of our work in family and domestic violence outreach programs regionally and locally.

To streamline service delivery within the OCIC, this year each Assessor has been provided with the opportunity to work with a project portfolio to assist with the implementation of the objectives defined in our current Business Strategy. These portfolio's comprise Aboriginal Justice and outreach, external stakeholder training and education, judicial and administrative staff training and wellness, recoveries and finally, executive governance.

## Aboriginal Justice Outreach

OCIC continued extending our services to vulnerable applicants by travelling to metropolitan, regional and remote locations. This year, our metropolitan locations included the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service in Perth and the Pat Giles Centre for Non-Violence to speak with applicants and assist them with submitting applications. Regionally, staff from the OCIC attended 4 regional outreach weeks. The locations included Newman/Tom Price/Paraburdoo, Broome/Dampier Peninsula, Fitzroy

Valley (Yungngora/Fitzroy Crossing/Derby) and Kulumburu/Wyndham. The OCIC has been able to assist applicants with claims, provide education to the community and community groups, raise awareness of our services and create supportive relationships with organisations providing wrap around services for people in our remote communities. Assessors and case managers provided information and training to staff at women's refuges, legal service providers, health providers, police officers, other government service providers, community staff and community members. We also assisted applicants directly with submitting applications.

The work of the OCIC in our outreach program is extremely valuable as evidenced by feedback from women at Pat Giles who said they would not have been able to lodge an application without assistance from OCIC. In the next financial year, Assessor Barter will review our remote access and inclusion program, which has been running for 4 years now. It is intended to implement changes to allow delivery of our services in regional areas to be targeted and more productive in a culturally-appropriate, trauma-informed, efficient and streamlined fashion. This review aligns with the Department of Justice's Reconciliation Action Plan Action 11: Implement Strategies to improve justice outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and specifically Deliverable 60: Support improved criminal compensation outcomes for Aboriginal people through the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation Aboriginal Community Outreach Program.



Newman from Radio Hill lookout

### External Stakeholder Training and Education

Assessor Hafford has developed this portfolio to proffer opportunities for external stakeholders to seek training and education from OCIC staff and for our Judicial Officers to deliver educational and training services to the community. These services include the provision of information to assist with an understanding of our services, seek feedback from our stakeholders and provide targeted training in specific areas.

This year, we participated in a number of public speaking engagements and education and training opportunities including at:

- Australian Lawyers Alliance Annual Conference on recent trends in criminal injuries compensation encompassing research into Aboriginal justice in the context of criminal injuries compensation eligibility and assessment;
- the Law Society Seminar Series on recent trends in criminal injuries compensation encompassing research into Aboriginal justice in the context of criminal injuries compensation eligibility and assessment;

- Citizens Advice Bureau providing an overview of criminal injuries compensation and eLodgment;
- Department of Justice's Victim Support Services providing information on specific challenges faced by this service;
- Department of Communities on claims for child neglect;
- Child Witness Service providing an overview of criminal injuries compensation;
- Newman Women's Shelter on criminal injuries compensation for domestic violence survivors;
- Country Practitioners Association on recent updates in criminal injuries compensation;
- Office of the Public Advocate providing an overview of criminal injuries compensation;
- Legal Aid and Aboriginal Family Law Service practitioners in West Kimberley on practical aspects of criminal injuries compensation applications.

To assist self-represented applicants, a review was undertaken of the OCIC's information packages and a series of infographic brochures developed which encompass information for creating a statement of impact and obtaining a medical report.

Further, the OCIC:-

- (a) continues to provide opportunities by way of internships for Murdoch University Law Students to complete research work in the area of criminal injuries compensation law, to contribute to the degree program; and
- (b) has hosted a student for the completion of the practical legal training component of her Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice through the College of Law, a requirement for admission to the practice of law in Western Australia.

### Judicial and Administrative Staff Training and Wellness

Under the guidance of Assessor Capararo, OCIC Assessors have continued to deliver diverse training to OCIC staff engaging external speakers to talk about the services our stakeholders provide and other important matters for consideration. The external speakers included speakers from Knowmore regarding Redress and other civil remedies and the Principal Legal Officer of Women's Legal Service regarding the valuable services their organisation provides. These seminars assisted the development of knowledge about other schemes of compensation and how they differ from the Western Australian scheme. In addition, formal induction training modules for new staff have now been developed and are implemented during the new staff onboarding process. It is planned in the next year there will be training for staff in typing decisions and for judicial officers in decision writing and Scientific Content Analysis (SCAN) through scientific interrogation analysis.

Wellness continues to be a priority for our staff. The OCIC has a dedicated wellness team with representatives from all business areas across the OCIC who assisted

in the implementation of fortnightly meditation, team building activities, mornings teas, breakout activities and professional development. In addition to these activities, the OCIC engaged a psychologist to provide a seminar to staff about vicarious trauma. Our wellness activities benefit our staff personally as well as community groups through donations and fundraising.

### Recoveries

Assessor Wallbridge has been tasked with prioritising and implementing the objectives set out in the 2023 to 2025 Recoveries Business Strategy since being appointed full-time in April 2024. The work undertaken in this financial year includes:-

1. overseeing the development of a process map by the recoveries supervisor to clearly define steps in the recoveries process, review procedures and implement changes including:-
  - (a) Identifying at what stage in the process reporting data is available for collection and analysis;
  - (b) A review of processes and correspondence to identify scope for improvements with the intention of developing a manual to review and standardise processes across all recoveries areas to improve efficiency;
  - (c) Identify opportunities for targeted data collection and reporting to improve information contained in the annual report and provide better community understanding of the work of recoveries beyond collecting money;
2. Liaising with the Fines and Enforcement Registry regarding mutually beneficial processes to implement within recoveries;

3. Develop an archived file review process;
4. Implement an automated Centrepay process improving efficiency for payment collection;
5. Liaise with the Courts Technology Group to improve and simplify access for offenders to information regarding their debt and payment including consideration of a QR code to link offenders to their eCourts log in and/or direct to payment options;
6. Develop a prison pre-release letter for offenders when they are eligible for parole and/or due for release;
7. Ascertain automated release date data for offenders to improve information management;
8. Explore opportunities for education and training to stakeholders responsible for the management of offenders including the Prisoners Review Board and Community Corrections to provide seminars regarding the recoveries process to assist incarcerated offenders and/or offenders on parole;

### Executive Governance

The executive governance portfolio is managed by the Chief Assessor and includes overseeing the implementation of the Business Strategies, monitoring, managing and improving case flow and management, identifying and implementing improvements in processes and creating and maintaining external stakeholder relationships. This year, the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for information exchange with the WA police came to an end and a new MOU was negotiated. In addition, the Chief Assessor identified key activities within the OCIC for Assessors to be provided with their own portfolio to develop and implement. Further, the OCIC remains committed to the implementation

of the Department's Reconciliation Action Plan and continues to support Aboriginal Business trainees to complete their studies and qualifications in Government administration with the inclusion of a trainee from this program within the OCIC. This year marks the fourth year the OCIC has participated in this program and it has been a mutually beneficial experience for our staff and the trainee.

### Final Comments

None of the work performed by the OCIC can occur without our dedicated, skilled staff. Our staff are under enormous and increasing pressure to deliver OCIC's services to the community. Despite this pressure, our staff continue to provide an excellent service to our applicants evidenced by the growing number of emails and correspondence expressing words of appreciation and gratitude for the work our staff undertake in making the process more manageable and for displaying kind, thoughtful and helpful assistance. I am very grateful for the way the OCIC staff assist applicants at a difficult time for them and I thank each and every staff member concerned for providing such an environment within the OCIC.

### Charmaine Holyoak-Roberts

Chief Assessor  
Criminal Injuries Compensation

# OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INJURIES OVERVIEW

Located at Level 10, Golden Square, 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth, the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation (OCIC), is established pursuant to the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 2003* (the Act). The OCIC is a specialist tribunal providing a flexible, informal and responsive approach to determining applications for compensation by victims of crime in a trauma informed manner, acting in an informal and expeditious manner. The tribunal consists of the Chief Assessor and 3 Assessors together with case managers, recoveries officers and clerical staff. To qualify for appointment, the Chief Assessor and any Assessors are required to be an Australian Lawyer of at least 8 years' legal experience. Most applications are determined on the papers in a non-adversarial fashion, without the need for a hearing.

Assessors are not bound by the rules of evidence in assessing applications and have inquisitorial powers to inform themselves in any manner they see fit.

Applicants can claim compensation for injuries and some losses suffered as a consequence of an offence or alleged offence. Compensation can be awarded for bodily harm, mental and nervous shock and pregnancy and includes pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life. The maximum amount payable is \$75,000.00 for an offence committed in Western Australia after 1 January 2004, and lesser amounts for offences committed prior to that. Where there are multiple offences or alleged offences perpetrated by the same offender over a period of time, an applicant can be entitled to a maximum of \$150,000.00.

Interim payments of up to \$2,250.00 can be made for medical reports or treatment costs which can facilitate the applicant accessing urgent treatment. Interim payments are also available for funeral expenses which are paid in full



Dales Road, Karijini National Park

if reasonable and can be made on an urgent basis.

Priority is given to applicants who are over the age of 70 years and secondary victims of offences where the offence caused the death of the primary victim.

The OCIC supports victims of crime by determining claims for compensation and providing financial assistance in a trauma informed manner to:

1. Acknowledge their pain and suffering by a lump sum payment; and
2. Provide for some losses including loss of income, the cost of reports, treatment expenses, travel for treatment and some personal items damaged in the commission of the offence.

The data contained in this annual report is based on the most accurate statistics obtained at the time of preparation of the report from ICMS. The ICMS system is a live data capture system which means data may change from time to time, depending upon

data entry processes and delays. The OCIC continues to improve processes and procedures to best capture and record live data.

In addition to its core business areas of awards and recoveries, the OCIC has continued to have an active role in the provision of information relevant to applicants for National Redress, responding to a large number of requests for information from the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime which co-ordinates the provision of information to the Commonwealth body.

## Who can apply

Assessors can award compensation under the Act to any person who has suffered injury as a consequence of an offence or alleged offence. The offence may be proved by a conviction in a criminal court or if an alleged offender has not been charged or the case not completed in court the Assessor may make an award if they are satisfied an offence has occurred. Payments can be made

to primary victims, that is, those victims injured as direct result of the offence and in certain circumstances to secondary victims who were present when or immediately after the offence was committed or who qualify as close relatives of the injured or deceased victim.

**The application process**

Applications are currently received in paper form, by email using the OCIC’s application form, available at [https://courts.justice.wa.gov.au/\\_files/criminal\\_injuries\\_compensation.pdf](https://courts.justice.wa.gov.au/_files/criminal_injuries_compensation.pdf) or via electronic means using the eCourts portal available on the OCIC’s website <https://cict/justice.wa.gov.au>. There is no fee payable to make an application to the OCIC. Applications ought to be lodged within 3 years of the offence though in some circumstances Assessors can extend this timeframe. Applications should be lodged with supporting documents, including medical and other health professional reports, evidence of any losses (such as loss of wages or costs incurred in treatment), a statement of circumstances of the incident and a victim impact statement.

Once the application is received, the Senior Case Manager will allocate it to a Case Manager who will review the application before referring it to the Assessor. The Assessor may reject the application for a variety of reasons. Alternatively, the Assessor may accept the application in which case information requests will be made about the incident and prosecution (if there was one) to help determine whether an offence has occurred. Requests may also be made for other information, such as medical, counselling, psychological and hospital notes, depending on the application. Almost all claims are determined on the material provided to or obtained by the Assessor.

The process of case management and assessment takes time, which varies according to the complexity of the application and workload within the OCIC. Finalisation of applications is delayed if the Assessor is awaiting the

outcome of a criminal investigation or prosecution, required to make further inquiries about the incident, the injury or losses, if the Assessor determines a hearing is required or if there is a delay in the applicant providing information to the OCIC or responding to inquiries by the Assessor. Processing times for the 2024 year are identified in this report.

**Staff**

By the end of the 2023/2024 year, the team at the OCIC consisted of 5 full time assessors and 21.1 full time equivalent administrative (FTE) employees, including staff working on recovery of compensation payments from convicted offenders (the Recoveries Office).

**Key data for 2024**

- 11,064 new applications** for compensation were received.
- 9,880 applications** were accepted for processing, an increase of 30.2%.
- 6,523 applications** were finalised, an increase of 2.8%.
- 5,304 awards** were made to a total value of \$81,147,434.00 an increase of 1.9%.
- The **average award** was **\$15,227.00**.
- 594 applications** were refused.
- 8 hearings** were held into applications for compensation.
- The **caseload increased by 4,319 to 11,105 applications** on hand, an increase of 63.6%.
- \$2,188,861.00 of debt** owed to the State was recovered, a decrease of 3.5%.
- 2,690 finalised applications** arose from offences involving family and domestic violence, being 41.2% of the finalised applications.

**Statistical profile**

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>New Applications received</b>	3,615	5,612	7,555	8,907	11,064
<b>Accepted Applications</b>	3,096	4,979	6,320	7,589	9,880
<b>Rejected Applications</b>	519	633	1,235	1,318	1,184
<b>Resubmitted Applications</b>	719	727	1,177	1,663	1,505
<b>Awards granted</b>	2,488	4,777	6,475	5,203	5,304
<b>Applications refused</b>	481	536	543	428	594
<b>Applications closed or discontinued</b>	204	280	681	700	625
<b>Applications outstanding at 30 June</b>	5,502	4,949	4,454	6,786	11,105

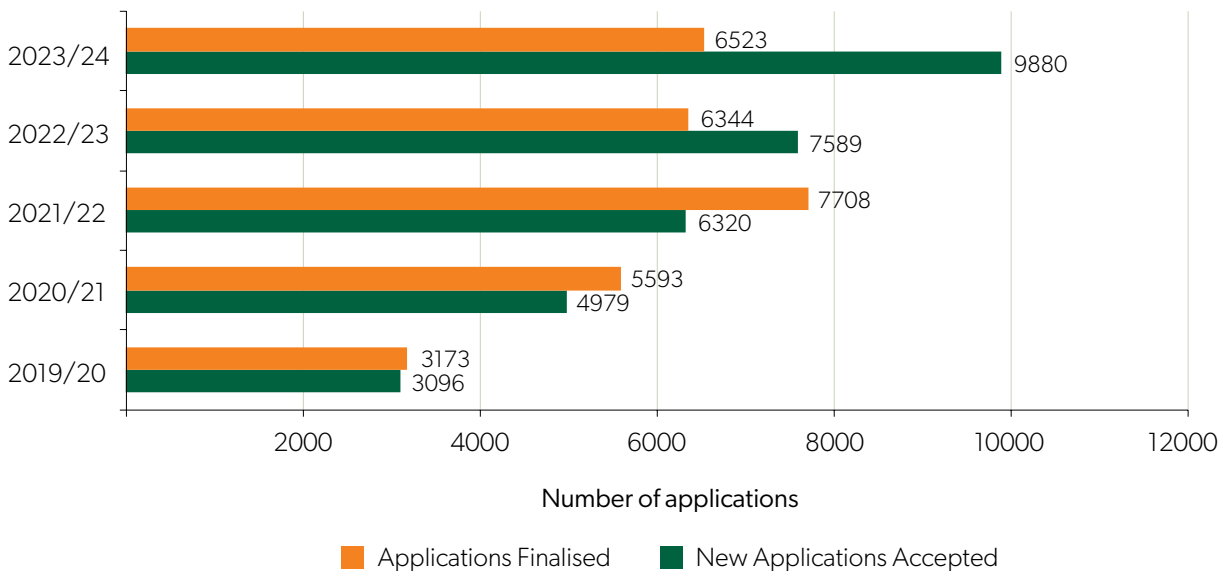


# STATISTICAL DATA

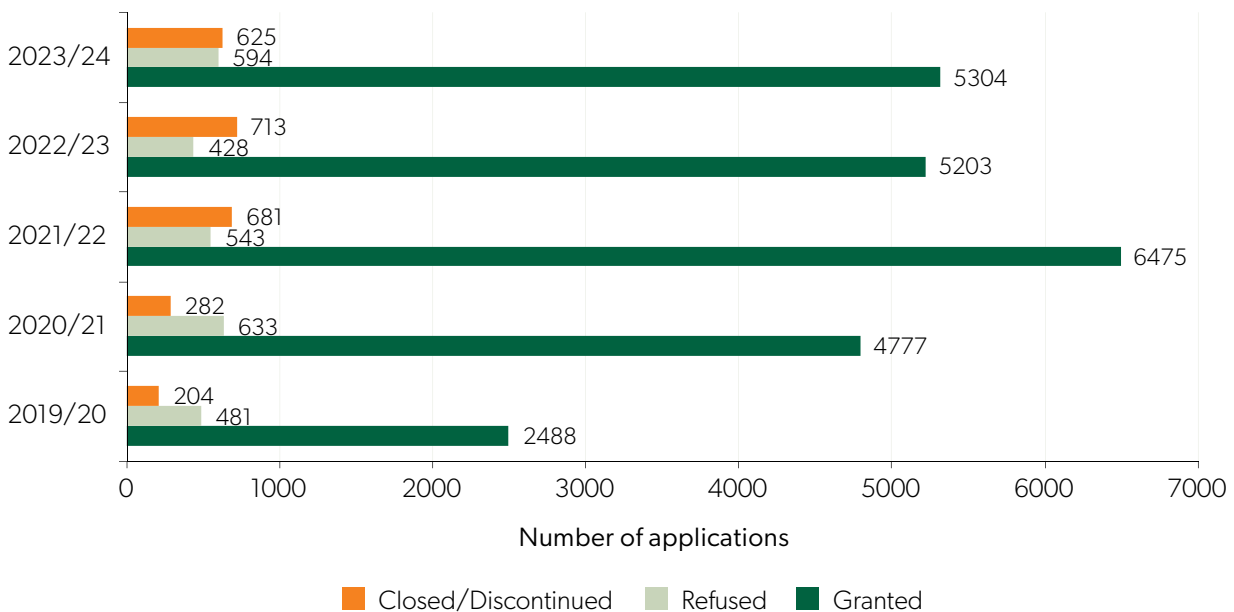
## New applications received

During 2023/24, 9,880 new applications were accepted for processing, 2,291 more than in the previous year. In 2023, 6,344 applications were finalised, and in 2024, 6,523 were finalised, an increase of 179. The case load increased this year by 4,319 applications.

### Applications accepted and finalised 2019/20 to 2023/24



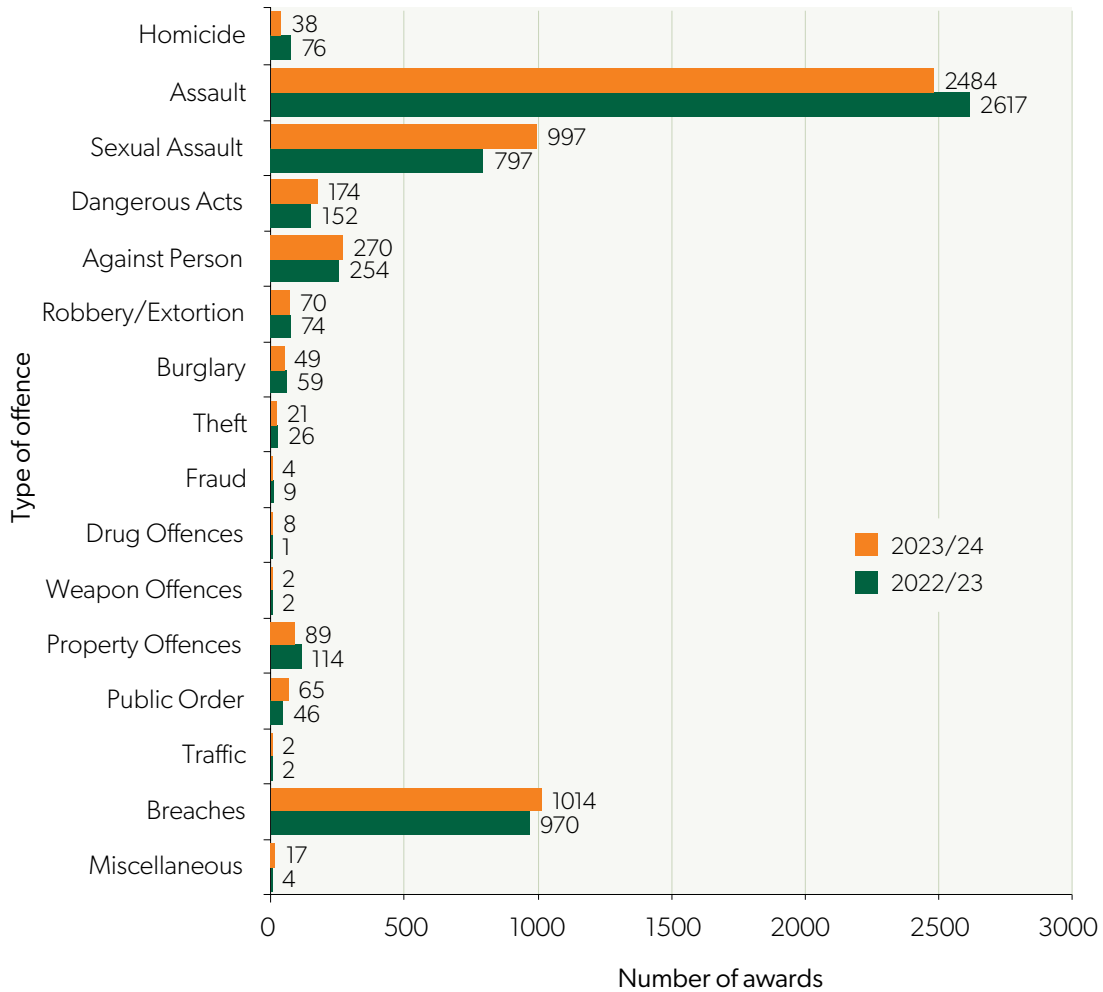
### Claims finalised 2019/20 to 2023/24



### Nature of offences involved

The chart below illustrates the types of offences for which awards were made, with a comparison between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Offences for which awards were made 2022/23 to 2023/24

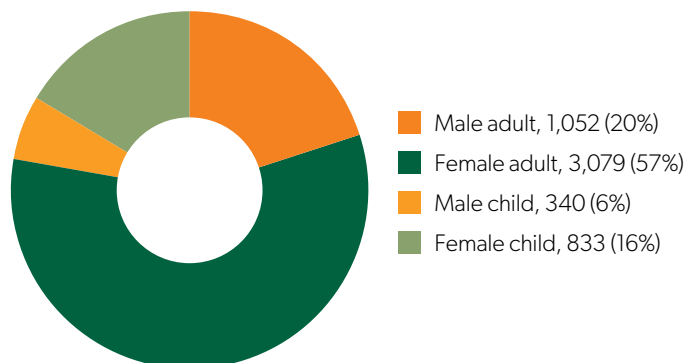


### Number of males and females to whom awards were made

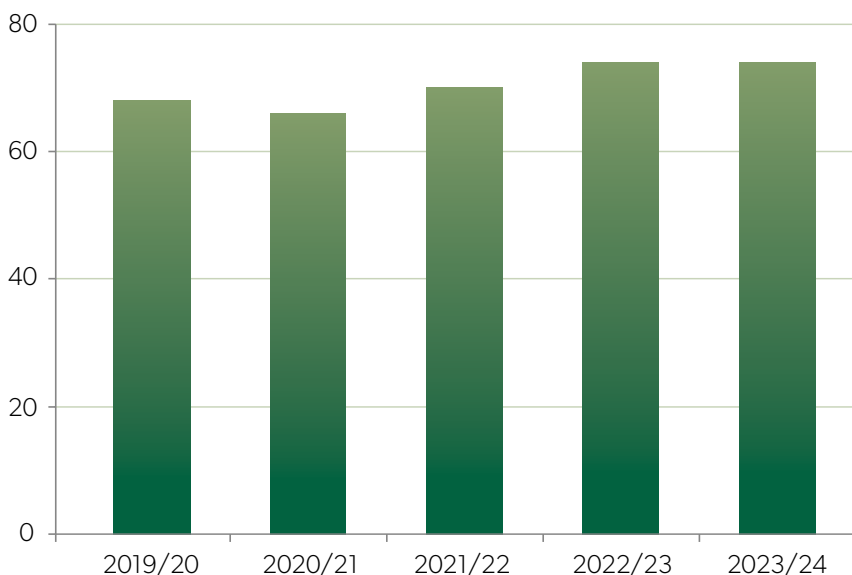
The following chart shows the gender of persons to whom awards were made and the number of adults and children involved. Overall, 74% of recipients were female and 26% male. The consistently high number of female applicants is likely connected with an increase in female applications for incidents of family and domestic violence.

Gender of recipients 2023/24

Number of awards made (total 5,304)



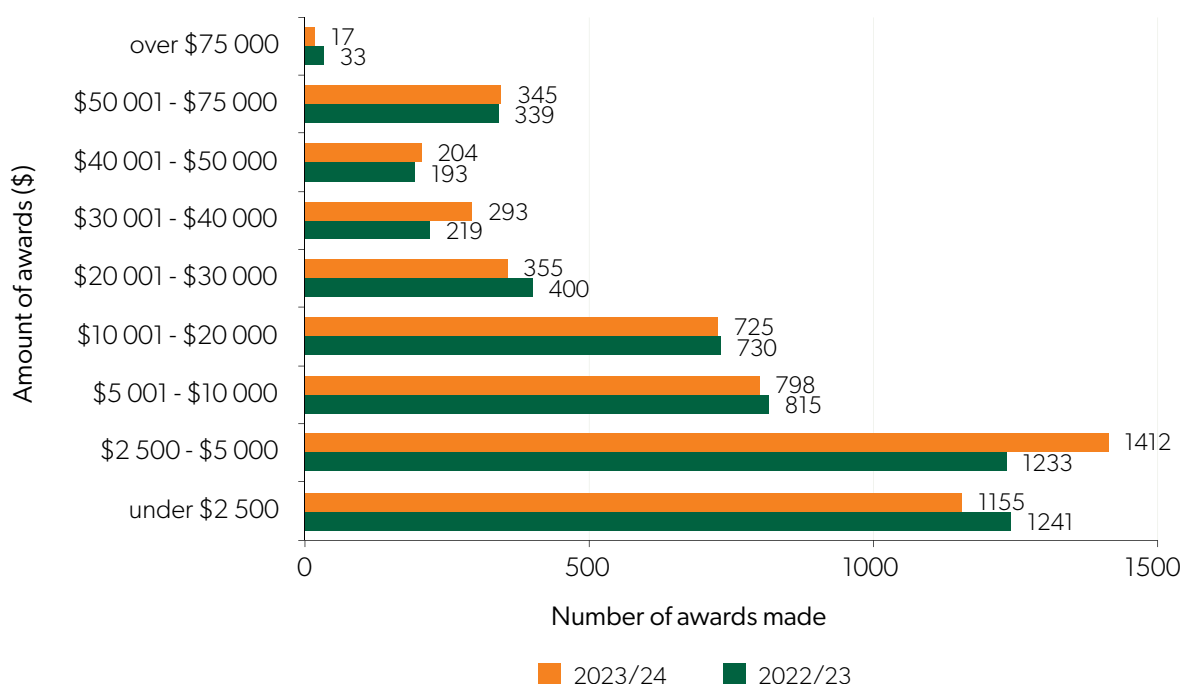
Percentage of female applicants



Range of awards made

The chart below illustrates the monetary range of awards made, with a comparison between 2022/23 and 2023/24. The fact that the significant majority of applicants are compensated at a figure below the available maximum indicates the scheme is adequately compensating the majority of applicants, though may fall short of adequate compensation for victims of childhood sexual abuse. Recent decisions in the District Court including **Lawrence v Province Leader of the Oceania Province of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers [2020] WADC 27**; **Province Leader of the Oceania Province of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers v Lawrence [2021] WASCA 77**; **ZYX (pseudonym initials) v Cable [No 5] [2023] WADC 61** and **PLA v DEF [2024] WADC 53** have seen awards for compensation for psychological trauma associated with childhood sexual abuse to be far greater than the statutory maximum provided for under the Act.

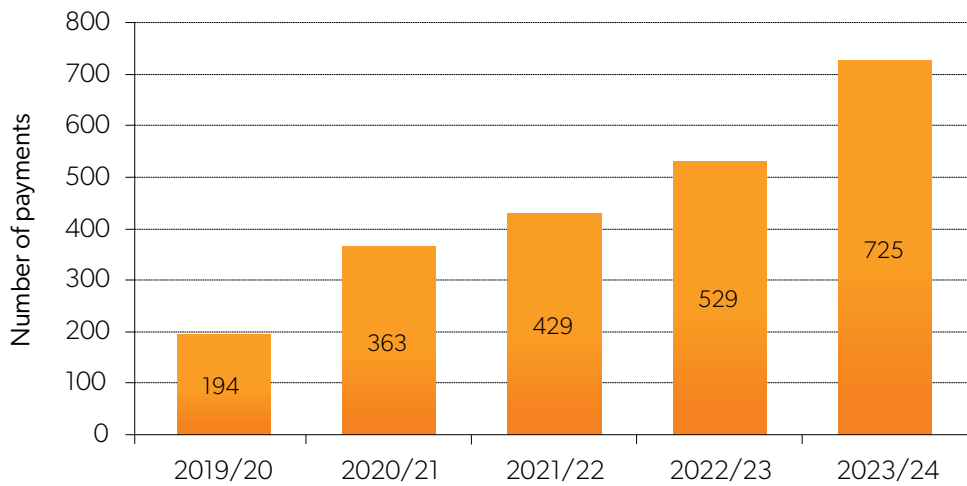
Range of monetary awards 2022/23 and 2023/24



### Interim payments

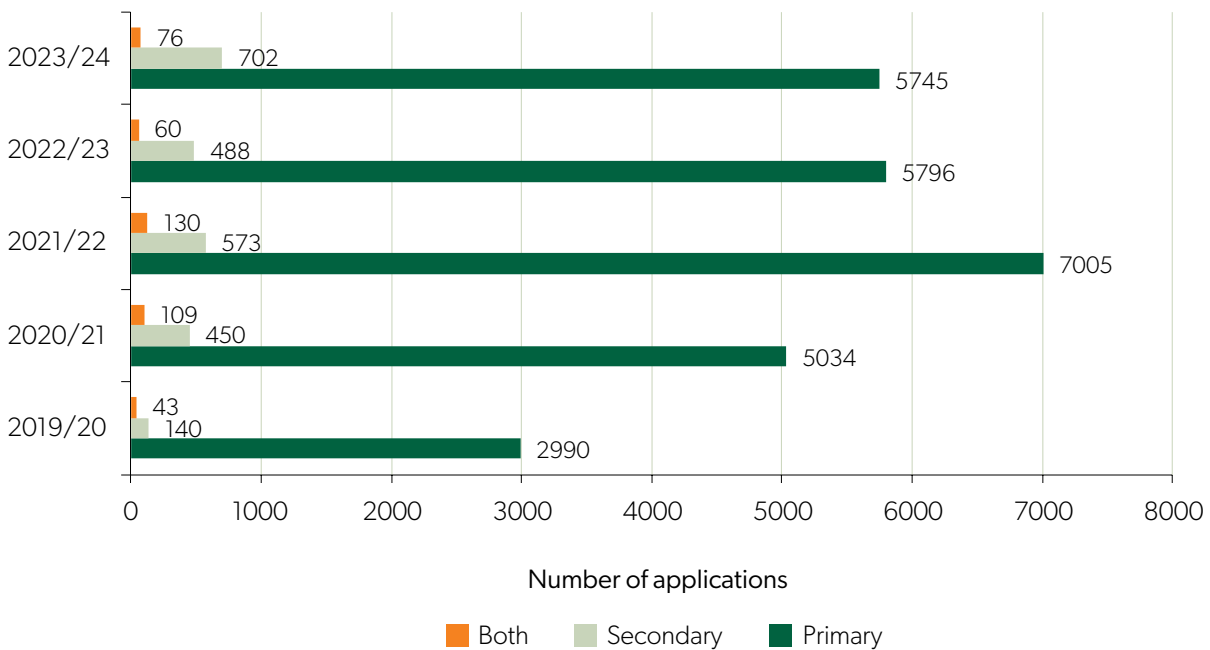
An Assessor may authorise an interim payment before the finalisation of a claim, to a maximum of \$2,250.00 for expenses incurred as a consequence of a death or injury. The table below shows the number of applicants to whom interim payments were made.

*Interim payments made 2019/20 to 2023/24*



### Primary and secondary victims

*Primary and secondary victims 2019/20 to 2023/24*

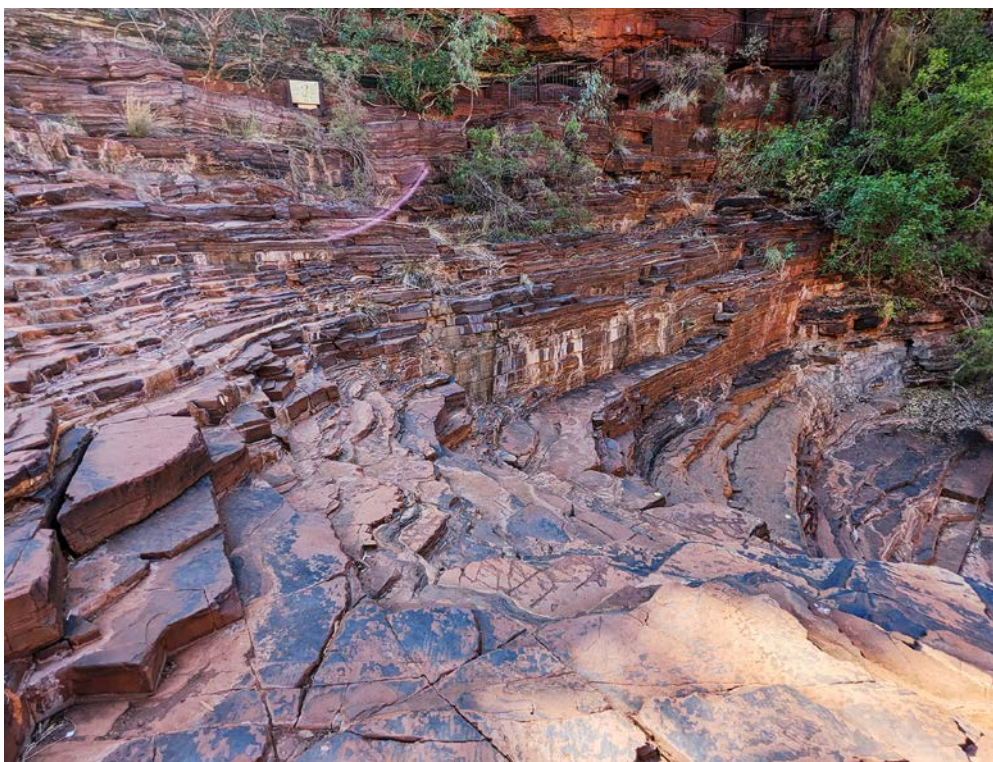


### Funeral expenses

In 2023/24 the OCIC received 38 applications arising from a homicide. There was 1 claim for compensation for funeral expenses totalling \$5,000.00. A decrease in claims for funeral expenses is likely attributed to the Department’s Homicide Funeral Assistance Scheme for death as a result of murder, manslaughter or unlawful assault.

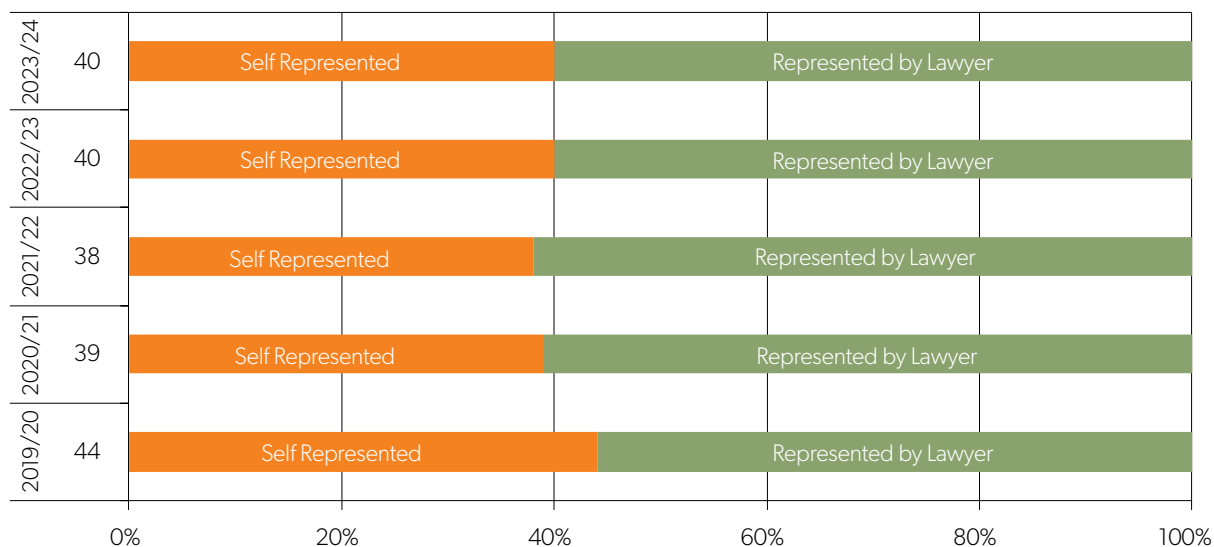
### Representation

The last 12 months has seen the proportion of applicants having legal representation remain the same as the previous year.



Fern Pool, Karijini National Park

### Representation 2019/20 to 2023/24



### Appeals

20 appeals were lodged with the District Court following the determination of a compensation application. 19 appeals were finalised and of these 11 were successful, 2 was unsuccessful, 0 were abandoned and 6 were discontinued or dismissed.

## Refusals

Awards were refused on 428 applications, for the reasons detailed below. Of these refusals, 282 (51.8%) relate to matters involving allegations of family and domestic violence. This represents a decrease in the percentage of refusals relating to family and domestic violence from 54.6% in the previous year.

Section of Act	No. of refusals	Family and domestic violence matters refused	Reason for refusal
No Jurisdiction	15	9	No Jurisdiction
No Reason Given	0	0	No Reason Given
Section 10(1)	2	1	Death of person entitled to compensation ends entitlement
Section 12(1)	44	25	Proved offence
Section 12(2)	1	0	Proved offence - Personal representative of the deceased
Section 13(2)	45	31	Alleged offence: acquittal
Section 13(4)	1	0	Alleged offence: acquittal – Alleged offence committed by a person other than the person acquitted
Section 13(5)	1	0	Alleged offence: acquittal - Alleged offence to be taken not to have been committed if person not criminally responsible
Section 16(2)	16	15	Alleged offence: charge not determined
Section 17(2)	247	205	Alleged offence: no person charged
Section 17(5)	7	6	Alleged offence: no person charged - Not criminally responsible
Section 35(2)(a)	4	0	Mental and nervous shock, compensation for limited to certain persons - Bodily harm/Pregnancy
Section 35(2)(b)	3	0	Mental and nervous shock, compensation for limited to certain persons - Victim
Section 35(2)(e)	5	0	Mental and nervous shock, compensation for limited to certain persons - Victim close relative and living with
Section 35(3)	1	0	Mental and nervous shock, compensation for limited to certain persons - Victim committing offence
Section 37	12	1	No award if injury is from motor vehicle in certain cases
Section 38	25	13	No award if applicant did not assist investigators
Section 39(1)	49	22	No award if victim was engaged in criminal conduct
Section 40(2)	38	32	No award if compensation already awarded or refused
Section 40(3)	0	0	No award if compensation already awarded or refused - Personal representative of the deceased
Section 41	16	11	Behaviour etc. of victim to be considered
Section 42(2)	13	0	Insurance payments etc. to be deducted from award - Loss
Section 42(3)	14	0	Insurance payments etc. to be deducted from award - Injury or loss
Section 9(2)	35	18	Time limit for making compensation application

\* An extension of time was granted on 743 applications.

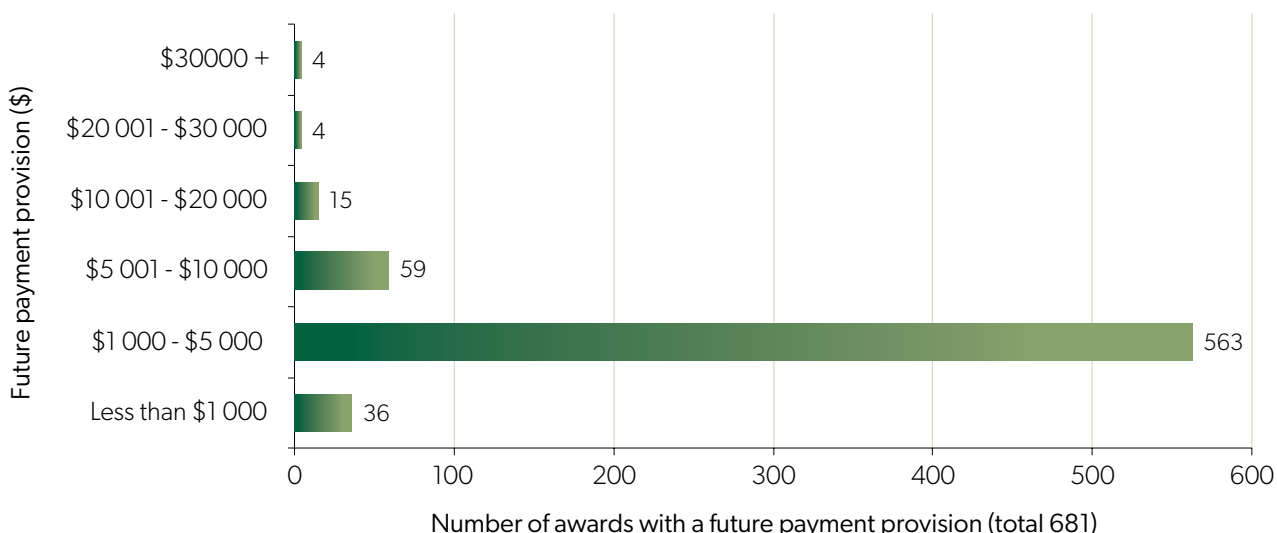
### Reductions to Awards for Contribution

Section 41 of the Act requires regard be had to “any behaviour, condition, attitude, or disposition of the victim that contributed, directly or indirectly, to the victim’s injury or death”, and authorises the assessor to refuse or reduce the award. Reductions for contributory behaviour, ranging from 10% to 50%, were made in 7 awards during 2023/24. Of these, 2 awards were reduced by 20% or less and 4 awards were reduced by over 20%. 2 applications were refused for contributory behaviour. One of the applications on which a reduction was made for contributory behaviour involved family and domestic violence.

### Future payments provision

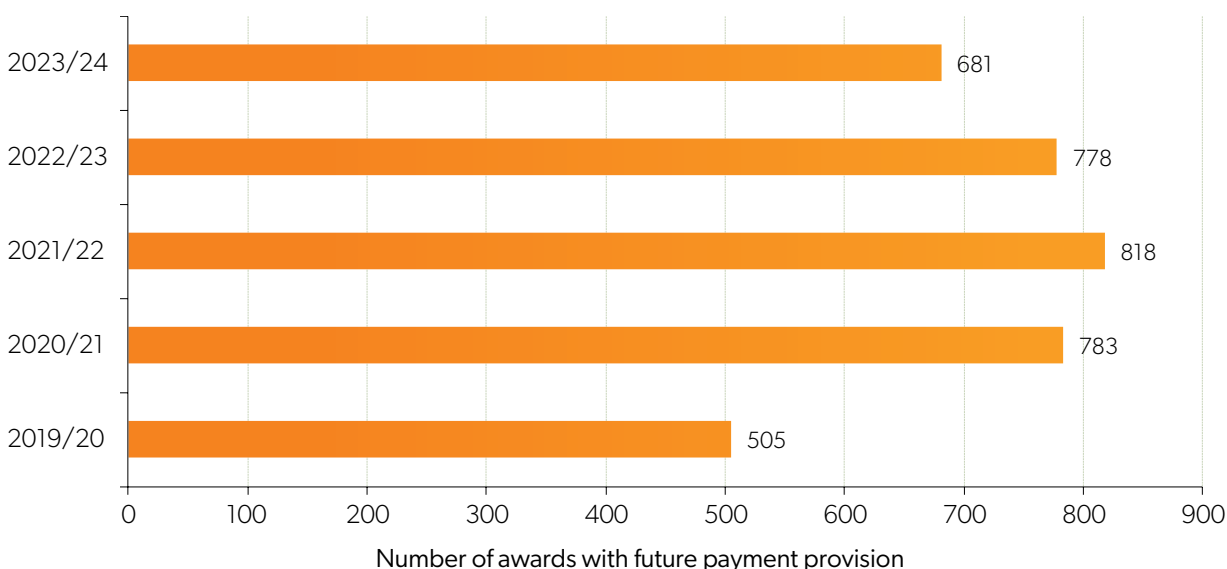
As part of an award, an Assessor may make provision for future treatment costs, which can be claimed by the **applicant when relevant costs are incurred within 10 years of finalisation of the application**. Pursuant to section 48 of the Act, payment is not made until expenses have been incurred and any available Medicare or private health insurance rebate has been claimed. Payment may only be authorised by an assessor if the expense was incurred before the expiry of 10 years after the date of the award or after the date the applicant reached 18 years of age, whichever is the later. The amendment to the Act which introduced the 10 year limit on claims against a future treatment provision came into effect on 31 July 2008, and therefore began to have an effect on the entitlement to claim from 31 July 2018.

Range of future payments provision 2023/24



In 2023/24 provision was made in 681 awards for future treatment expenses totalling \$2,492,618.94. \$509,863.70 future treatment was paid out.

Future payment provisions 2019/20 to 2023/24



Performance measures

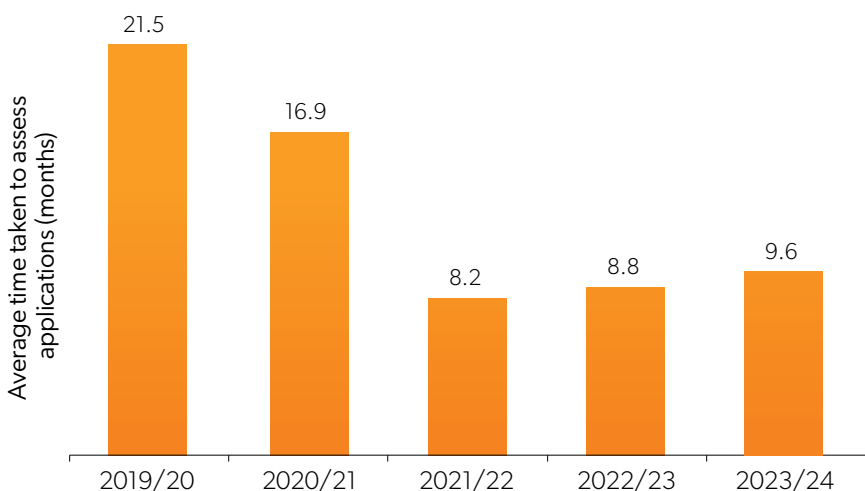
	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24	Q4 23/24	Annual
Lodgements Accepted	2,294	2,401	2,521	2,664	9,880
New Applications	2,678	2,750	2,716	2,920	11,064
Finalisations	1,566	1,557	1,803	1,597	6,523
39 weeks and less	1,056	1,014	943	736	3,749
39 to 52 weeks	188	176	293	137	794
52 weeks or more	322	367	567	724	1,980
Listings matters heard	104	78	88	100	370
Cases on hand	7,904	9,030	9,888	11,105	11,105
39 weeks and less	6,353	6,898	7,216	7,961	7,961
39 to 52 weeks	751	945	1,119	1,313	1,313
52 weeks or more	800	1,187	1,553	1,831	1,831
Applications New and Resubmitted	3,110	3,196	2,977	3,286	12,569
Applications Rejected	384	349	195	256	1,184
Applications Resubmitted	432	446	261	366	1,505

Assessment time

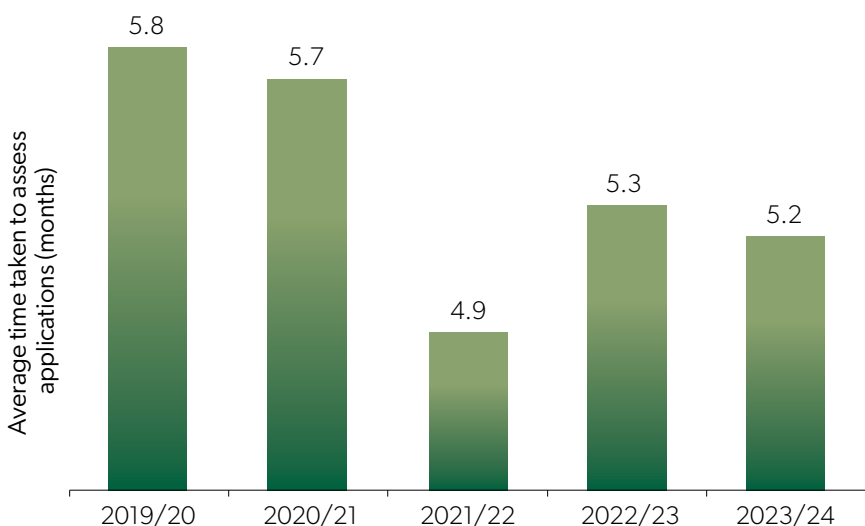
The calculation of the average time taken to finalise an application has in the past been made based only on those applications finalised *in less than 12 months from receipt*. This assumption reflected the likelihood that, in cases which take more than 12 months to finalise, the delay is usually caused by external factors such as ongoing treatment, finalisation of the prosecution, and resolution of other avenues for compensation. On this basis, the assessment time during 2023/24 was 5.2 months. However, the assessment time over *all applications finalised in the financial year* was 9.6 months.

The table to the right compares the assessment time of applications determined in less than 12 months for the years 2019/20 to 2023/24, with *all applications* determined in those years. The OCIC works towards consistently maintaining finalisation of 80% of applications within 12 months of lodgement, acknowledging 20% of applications will be delayed as a result of external factors and the complexity of some matters.

Assessment time 2019/20 to 2023/24 – Files over 12 months



Assessment time 2019/20 to 2023/24

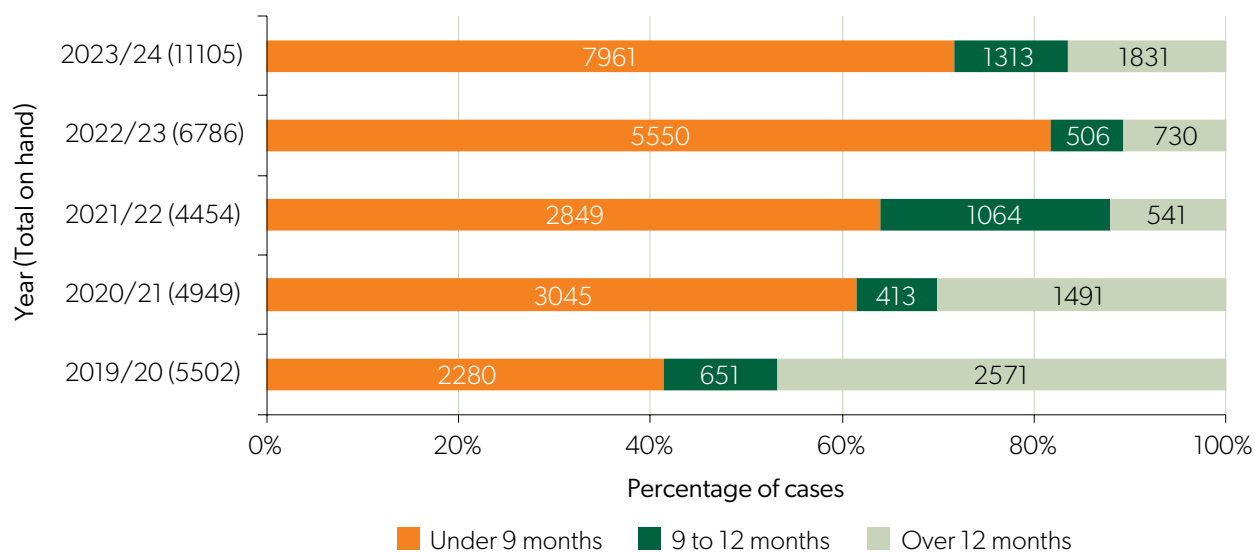




### Outstanding applications

On 30 June 2024, 11,105 applications were on hand, an increase of 4,319 or 63.6% over the preceding 12 months. The breakdown of the age of the cases on hand in the table below shows that the number of applications which have been in the Office for more than 12 months has increased by 1,101.

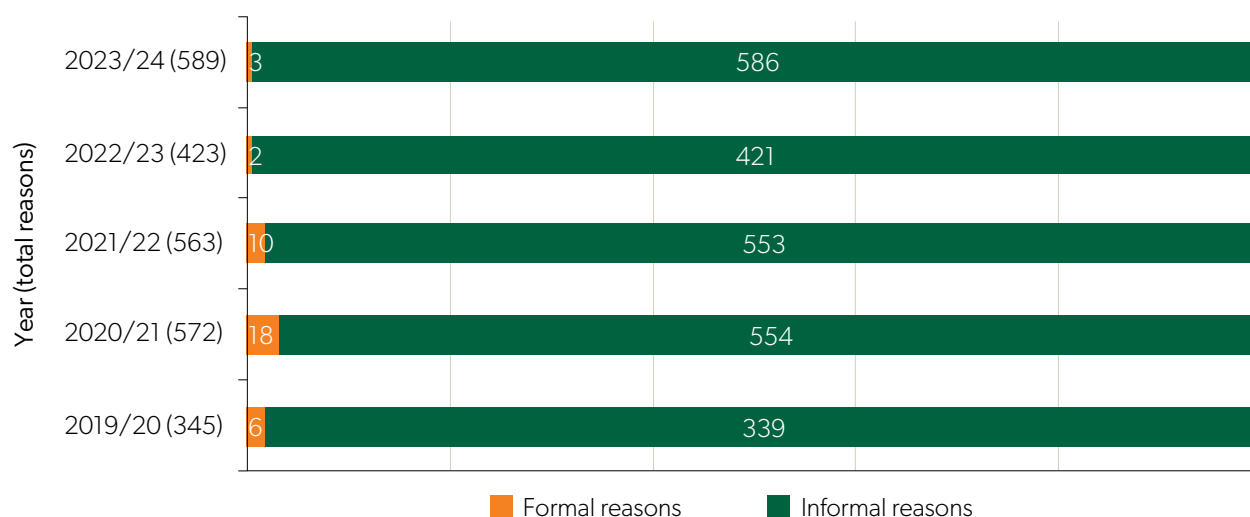
Applications on hand – 30 June



### Provision of reasons

An Assessor is required to give written reasons for the making of an award when requested to do so, and in all cases where the making of an award is refused. Where an Assessor forms the view by reason of the operation of the legislation an applicant is ineligible for compensation, the applicant may be advised by letter of the reasons for that outcome, rather than in formal written reasons. 589 cases had reasons provided during 2023/24 compared to 423 in the previous year. This represents a 39.2% increase in reasons provided. The chart below sets out the breakdown of these reasons.

Reasons provided 2019/20 to 2023/24



# RECOVERY OF DEBT

When a compensation award is made in a case where an offender was convicted, the State may apply to an Assessor for a Compensation Reimbursement Order (CRO) to determine whether the offender should be required to repay the amount awarded, to fix the amount of the debt and in an appropriate case to provide for the method of repayment of the debt to the State. The application is listed before an Assessor and the offender is served with a notice advising the date, time and purpose of the application. The State's opportunity to take action to recover compensation paid to a victim of crime from a convicted offender depends on the determination of the assessor of the appropriate amount of recovery, taking into account all of the circumstances. Issues which are relevant to this determination include, for example, the offender's assets, the impact on the offender's earning capacity of a period of imprisonment and issues relating to the offence itself. Although there is no recoverable debt until a CRO is made, some offenders voluntarily make payment on demand under the Act without the requirement of a CRO.

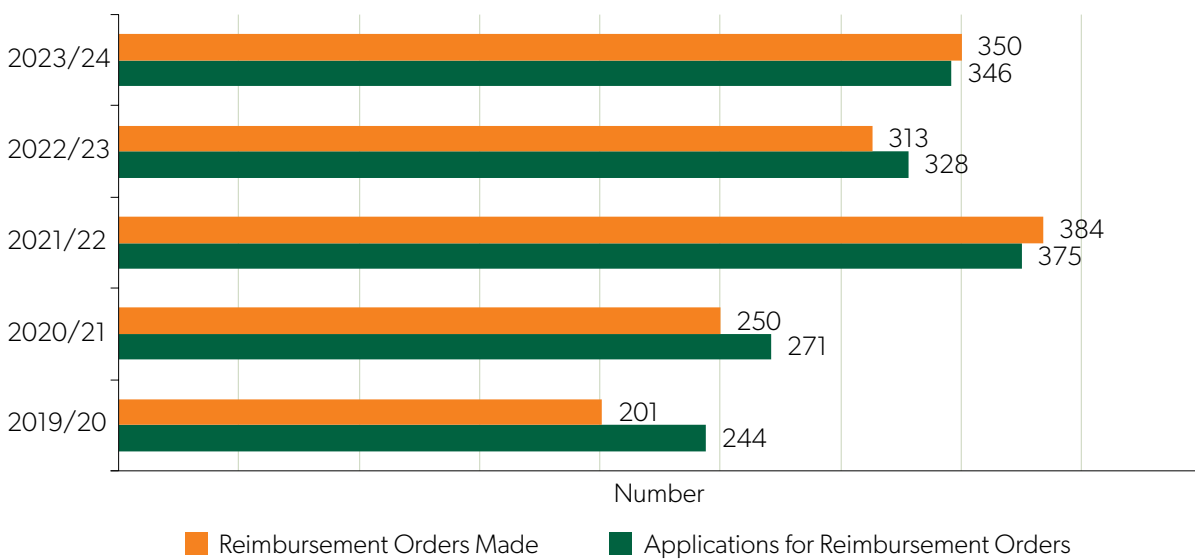
The Table below represents the number of applications for a CRO brought before an Assessor in each of the years listed, and the number of orders made. The number of applications was reduced after 2013 because of the demand on the Assessors' time brought about by the increasing caseload.



Paraburdoo Golf Course and beyond

In 2023/24, \$2,188,861.00 of debt owed to the State was recovered, compared to \$2,269,094.00 in the previous year. This represents a 3.5% decrease in the amount recovered.

Reimbursement orders 2019/20 to 2023/24



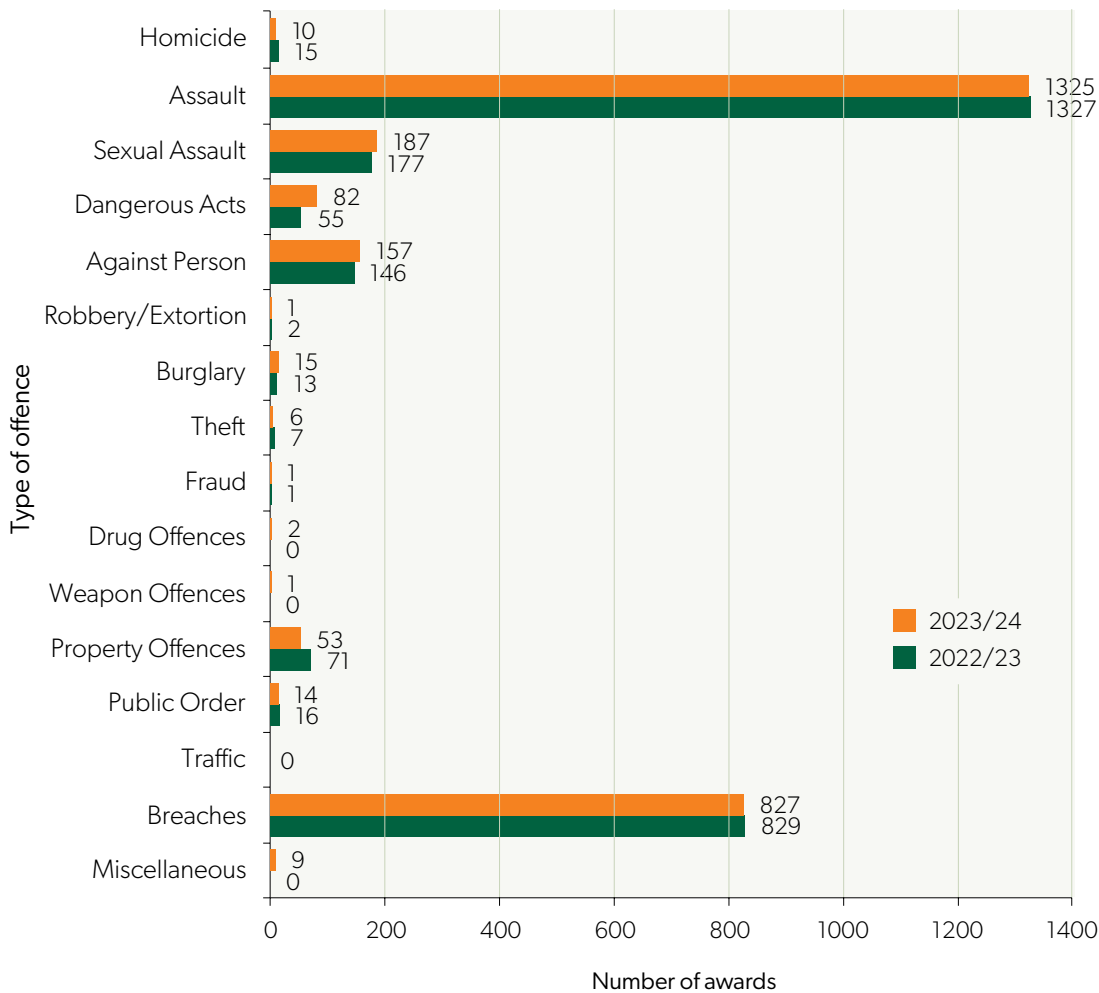
# FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As a result of the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia in the Final Report on Enhancing Laws Concerning Family and Domestic Violence, June 2014, the OCIC began collecting data concerning applications arising from allegations of family and domestic violence. The data below relates to the 2,690 awards granted this year involving family and domestic violence, compared to the data from 2022/23.

## Nature of offences involved

The chart below illustrates the types of offences for which awards were made during 2022/23 and 2023/24 for offences committed in the context of family and domestic violence.

Offences for which awards were made 2022/23 to 2023/24



### Domestic violence applications finalised

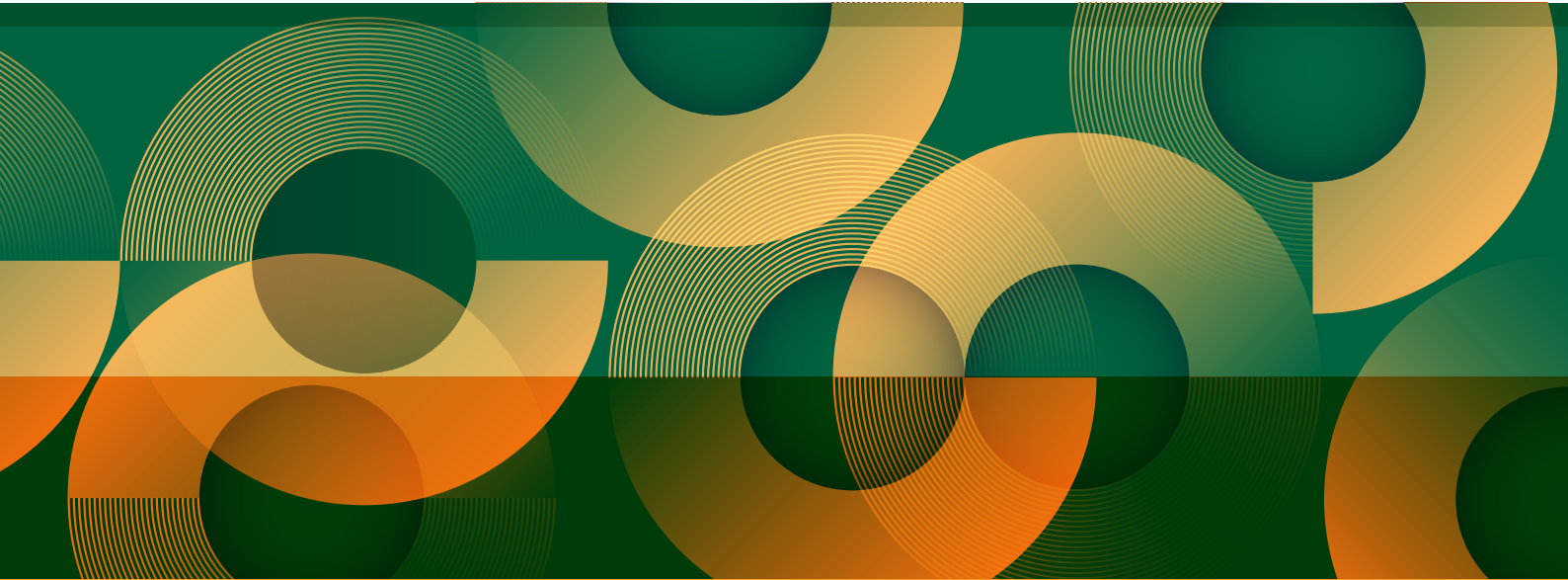
Victim Type	2022/23	2023/24
Both	20	20
Primary	2,453	2,449
Secondary	186	221

### Domestic violence applications refused

Victim Type	2022/23	2023/24
Both	0	1
Primary	273	375
Secondary	9	13

### Gender of applicants on domestic violence applications

Victim Type	2022/23	2023/24
Both		
Female	2,521	2,513
Male	138	177



**OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION**

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