

A Victims Support Levy and/or Court Costs Levy may be payable if you have been convicted of an offence. Levies must be paid within 28 days of the date of the conviction. Contact the court if you cannot pay within the time allowed.

Victims Support Levy (VSL)

\$104 (Summary offences) \$229 (Indictable offences)

The Victims Support Levy (formerly Victims **Compensation** Levy or **VCL**) is an amount levied on people who are found guilty of offences in NSW Courts. The money raised from the VSL goes to the Victims Support Fund and provides much needed financial and counselling assistance to victims of violent crime in NSW.

The VSL is not a penalty imposed by a court or judicial officer; it is imposed automatically by the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013* when a person is convicted of an offence by a court.

Exemptions from VSL

The following offences are exempt from VSL:

- Offences relating to use of offensive language
- Offences relating to travelling on public transport without paying the fare or without a ticket
- Offences relating to engaging in offensive conduct
- Offences relating to parking, standing or waiting of a vehicle.

Court Costs Levy (CCL)

\$85 (Summary proceedings before Local Court)

The Court Costs Levy is an amount levied on people who are found guilty of offences in summary proceedings before a Local Court. The money raised from the CCL contributes to the cost of running courts and the justice system.

The CCL is not a penalty imposed by a court or judicial officer; it is imposed automatically by the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* when a person is convicted of an offence in summary proceedings by a Local Court.

Exemptions from CCL

The following are also exempt from CCL:

- Convictions resulting in a sentence of imprisonment other than a suspended sentence
- Convictions in proceedings before the Drug Court
- Convictions in proceedings before the Children's Court
- A finding of guilt in relation to a traffic offence by the Local Court when dealing with an accused person under Division 4 of Part 3 of the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*.

Section 10 orders

Orders under sections 10A, 10(1)(b) and 10(1)(c) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* are considered convictions for the purpose of VSL and CCL and are therefore payable.

However, if a charge is dismissed under section 10(1)(a) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* and the offence is not punishable by imprisonment VSL and CCL are not imposed.

Can a levy be appealed?

No. There is no right of appeal against either levy. The Act does not provide for the withdrawal or cancellation of a levy. If you cannot pay the amount owing contact the court and ask for further time to pay or to pay by instalments. If you are under 18 years of age, you can ask the court to direct that you are not liable to pay either VSL or CCL.

If you do not pay the levy you may have to pay additional enforcement costs.