

Dear editor,

## **Injustice compounded**

In early June the NSW government changed victims compensation law so most victims of violence receive less money. This applied to everyone, including those who filed their claims under the old law, some as many as 3 or 4 years ago. It also applied to those appealing a decision made under the old law.

On 15 August, the government changed the law again so appeals against decisions made under the old law would be decided under the old law that applied at the time. However, rather than the usual 3 months, victims had a window of less than 1 month to apply. Worse still, the government did not tell victims about this change.

While it may be that the government is writing to the 16 victims who had withdrawn their appeals since the June changes (Victims get time to appeal compo, 25<sup>th</sup> September) what about the traumatised victims, who were further traumatised by the government's decision to change the law, and did not lodge an appeal in the first place? They would be unaware of the recent changes regarding appeals and have now lost the opportunity to appeal.

The only fair way to fix this compounding injustice is for the 3 month time period for appeals to start again - this time informing all victims who have the potential to appeal their decisions.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair McEwin  
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