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## \$1.6m paid to crime victims

The Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Boards paid out more than \$1.6 million to victims of violent crimes during the financial year ending on March 31.

The number of applications totalled 856, the majority initiated by the police. This is 19 per cent higher than the previous year.

The report, published yesterday, noted that of all the applications only two per cent were compensation claims for injuries suffered during law enforcement actions.

The compensation applications covered 17 per cent of the 5,001 reported cases of violent crimes involving personal injury.

Among these cases, the report said, robbery and burglary cases amounted to only 25 per cent of the applications, whereas assaults and wounding cases made up 68 per cent.

The largest single award made during the year was a payment of \$27,000 to the widow of a 29-year-old hawker who was stabbed to death while attempting to catch someone who had robbed a woman.

The report gave examples:

- Among the victims of robberies, wounding and homicide were four Britons, one American, one Japanese, one Nepalese, two Pakistanis, one Filipino and a Vietnamese.

- One compensation application came from the mother of a young girl who was the subject of a murder and suicide case. When considering the case, the board had to find whether she was shot dead by her boyfriend before he committed suicide, or whether both deaths were the result of a suicide pact.

- In one case, the board made a special award in recognition of special effort in crime prevention, to the assistant manager of a construction company who helped foil a robbery. The assistant manager suffered deep cuts resulting in 15 per cent residual incapacity. The board also wrote a letter of commendation to his employers.