

**From:** Yates, Heidi  
**Sent:** Thu, 15 Sep 2022 17:48:39 +1000  
**To:** Brit Mae  
**Subject:** Thinking ahead to provision of support at court

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive - Personal Privacy**

Hello Brittany,

I have begun planning for how the Victim Support team and I can best support you in the lead up to, and during, the upcoming trial. I'm conscious that it will be a challenging time.

My goal is to ensure that we can practically smooth the way wherever possible so that you have what you need, and can focus on the matters at hand. As well as offering things we think may be useful, I'm keen to make it as easy as possible for you to tell us what you need (noting you may not know what that is until you're in the moment).

Providing support and legal representation to victim-survivors has been part of my professional career for many years. However, noting the unique pressures of your matter, and to make sure I'm doing everything I can to offer you the best support, I've contacted Carmel [REDACTED] (the person we spoke to together a few months ago) to arrange a chat.

I'm keen to pick Carmel's brain because I know she's spent decades supporting people through difficult sexual assault trials. I'm confident she will have plenty of additional practical tips and information we may not have thought of yet when it comes to preparing for court, including things here like making the best use of breaks, re-setting between days spent giving evidence, remembering what coping mechanisms work for you if you find yourself in a tough spot on the stand etc.

Absolutely no pressure, but would you like to join me in this chat with Carmel, if you think it might be useful? At the moment, I've pencilled in a time with her at 1.30pm on Tuesday next week.

Just to be clear, I promise that if you'd rather not join this chat, I wouldn't be speaking with Carmel about your matter in your absence. Rather, we'll be having a general practical chat and I'd undertake to share any useful information with you afterwards (if you'd like).

Very happy to discuss the above, and/or any other things that might be on your mind regarding travel to Canberra and attendance at court.

Warm regards,  
Heidi

**Heidi Yates**  
Victims of Crime Commissioner

ACT Human Rights Commission  
56 Allara St  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Tel [REDACTED]

