

FUNERAL OPTIONS

Regardless of the Funeral Director selected, a range of end-of-life options is available. Three publicly listed global corporations hold 43% of Australia's funeral market, operating under more than 40 brands. Their average prices tend to be higher, reflecting corporate margins required to meet shareholder expectations.

Here is a list of the more common decisions that need to be made when organising a funeral.

- Funeral Director

One of the most important questions to ask a funeral director before engaging their services is whether the establishment is independently owned. This information can significantly influence the guidance provided regarding necessary arrangements and may help identify opportunities for cost savings.

- Funeral Celebrant

Well, I would like to think if you are reading this that the choice would be me. Some Funeral Directors will tell you that they "only use" their own Celebrants, and this is just plain convenience for them, not doing you a service or respecting your wishes. Regardless of who is looking after your loved one's mortuary care, the choice of Funeral Celebrant should be a personal choice to you, not someone that is going to tick and flick your memorial with all the things that are tried and tested as "traditional".

- Memorial Service

- o Church: Traditional choice but consider the wishes of the deceased and family convenience before deciding.
- o Funeral Home Chapel: Most funeral homes offer a chapel (60-100 people) as part of their services.
- o Crematorium Chapel: Available at both public and private crematoriums or cemeteries.
- o Private Spaces: Nearly any meaningful location can be used with the right planning.
- o Public Spaces: Options include RSL auditoriums, community halls, and surf clubs; many venues are open to hosting services if asked.

- Caskets

Caskets are available in a variety of materials, including solid timber, veneer, and eco-friendly options such as cardboard or wicker. The style and finish can be personalised to reflect the preferences and values of the deceased and their family, ensuring a fitting tribute. It's important to consider both budget and sentiment when making this choice, as costs can vary widely depending on design and material.

Cremation Urns

Cremation urns also come in a wide range of styles and materials, from biodegradable options for those seeking a gentler environmental impact to beautifully crafted keepsake urns for lasting remembrance.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of all land on which I perform ceremonies, paying my respects to the ancient bloodlines that have tended this land. I honour their leaders; past and present, for they hold the memories, traditions and culture of the first nation people in our country.

- Flowers

Flowers play an important role in creating a warm and comforting atmosphere at a funeral service. Choices range from traditional arrangements such as wreaths, sprays, and bouquets to native Australian blooms that reflect the local landscape and personal tastes. Families may opt for flowers that hold special significance or connection to the deceased, and many florists can customise arrangements to suit individual preferences and budgets.

- Playing Music and Photo Tributes

Most churches and chapels are equipped with audiovisual systems suitable for playing music and displaying photo tributes. If you select a venue without such facilities, it is possible to engage hire companies that offer mobile broadcast solutions, including comprehensive sound systems and large-screen televisions mounted on portable stands.

- Music and Visual Tributes

Many families choose songs that held special meaning for the deceased or reflect their personality and life story. In addition to music, visual tributes such as photo slideshows or video montages can be arranged to celebrate memories and milestones, creating a heartfelt and personal atmosphere for attendees.

Music and visuals play an important part in the grieving process at a ceremony that is celebrating and/or honouring life. A photo of a loved one serves as a reminder of times you were together.

- Funeral Livestreaming Services

Funeral livestreaming services are increasingly available, allowing friends and family who cannot attend in person to participate remotely. Many funeral directors can organise livestreaming, which can be password-protected for privacy and is suitable for both religious and secular venues. This service ensures that loved ones near and far can share in the farewell, regardless of location or circumstance.

- Service Booklets

Service booklets provide attendees with a keepsake that outlines the order of service, readings, song lyrics, and personal tributes. These booklets can be customised in design and content to reflect the unique life being celebrated, and some families choose to include photographs or favourite quotes. Professional printing services or DIY options are available to suit different styles and budgets.

- Donations

Donations in lieu of flowers are a thoughtful way to honour the deceased's memory, often supporting a charity or cause that held significance to them. Funeral directors can help facilitate donations, either by including details in the service booklet or providing collection boxes at the venue. This gesture allows attendees to contribute meaningfully and create a lasting legacy in remembrance of their loved one.

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