

*Eternity Funerals*  
Funerals Conducted With Dignity



Eternity funerals services all of NSW.

## Welcome To Eternity Funerals

*This practical guide to funerals has been written to help guide you through the steps that need to be taken when a death occurs.*

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At Eternity Funerals, we believe that each life lived is unique and should be valued, and that the funeral should be a reflection of this. It is an opportunity for family and friends to support one another and express their love and respect for the deceased. At Eternity Funerals, we support and guide families through this difficult time and provide a service that is both respectful and dignified.

Eternity Funerals is an Australian family owned funeral home operated by the Dakan family. We have been conducting funerals for many loved ones for many decades and we strive to keep our tradition of conducting a Funeral Service with Dignity. Eternity Funerals provides a large range of services, allowing you to choose the most appropriate Funeral that will be conducted professionally and with the utmost respect. In 2020 John and Fred Dakan shared 50 years of experience in the Funeral industry.

It is important that the funeral is an appropriate tribute to your loved one. At Eternity Funerals, we are here to help you through many aspects of arranging a funeral. We will listen to you, offer suggestions, organise and plan the service as per your wishes.

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*Together, we will create a beautiful tribute that is meaningful to your loved one and brings comfort to grieving family and friends.*

*Death is nothing else but going home to God... The bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity.*

*- Mother Teresa*



## Coping with Grief

The death of a loved one evokes emotions that touch the very core of our being. The mystery of death, the fear of the unknown, the sadness of losing a soul mate, close friend or relative often leaves us feeling confused, angry and alone. Perhaps it is a time when much soul searching and questioning about the purpose of our own being is foremost in our minds.

When people lose someone very close to them or with whom they have shared a lifetime, it is often hard to believe that it has really happened. Often there is a wide range of intense feelings that follow. The sadness and emptiness can be overwhelming; people are often surprised when they feel angry or guilty, but all of these emotions are normal.

At some point, we each experience loss ourselves or are close to someone who is. Grief is not only caused by the death of a loved one, but can also be experienced through events such as retrenchment, separation or

divorce, sudden or increasing disability, loss of a pet, or separation from home, family members or friends.

Often we do not know what to say to the grieving person and this can cause us to shy away from saying or doing anything. When people are helpful and supportive, they enhance the healing process which brings purpose and pleasure back into life.

An understanding pat on the shoulder, a handshake or a hug can say more than words, and will often be remembered as a source of great comfort and strength to those that are grieving.

Give permission – If people are allowed to express and show their feelings, then they can start to deal with them. Crying is a natural and healthy process in times of grief. This may be what they need to release their hurt – tears of grief are in fact tears of healing. Please visit our website [www.etsfunerals.com.au](http://www.etsfunerals.com.au) for more details on grief and loss.

## Funeral Service Options

*There is a variety of Funeral Service options for farewelling a loved one.*

To help with your planning, here are a few options to consider:

- A service held in a church, chapel or venue of your choice, followed by a full cortege to the place of burial or crematorium, where the committal will take place.
- A service held in church, chapel or venue of your choice, followed by a private cortege to the place of burial or crematorium or where only the immediate family is present to witness the committal.
- The entire service, including the committal, is held in a church, chapel or venue of your choice. At the conclusion of the service, the coffin/casket is farewelled from the church or chapel, and Eternity Funerals will privately convey your loved one unaccompanied to the cemetery or crematorium.
- The entire service, including the committal, is held at the graveside or crematorium.
- A memorial service is held in a church, chapel or venue of your choice. No coffin or casket is present at this service. This style of service usually occurs after a private burial or cremation. A memorial service can be incorporated with the scattering of ashes.

Eternity Funerals provide the following services:

- Consultation with the family in arranging the Funeral Service.
- Transfer of your loved one to our care.
- We liaise with the cemetery/crematorium.
- Consultation with Clergy/Celebrant.
- We have a large showroom of quality coffins/caskets to choose from.
- Preservation/embalming.
- Registration of death at the Registrar of Birth, Deaths & Marriages.
- We arrange your floral tributes.
- Mourning vehicles – sedan/limousine.
- Newspaper notifications.
- Memorial attendance book for family and friends to sign.
- We have a Chapel for viewings and family services.
- Assistance with grief support if required.
- Pre-arranged/paid funerals.
- Repatriation overseas.

We can also arrange doves, balloons, Scottish pipers and drummers, organist, vocalist/singer, memorial cards, refreshments/catering, horse & carriage, photographer, recording of the service and motor bike escorts.



## Planning Ahead

While many of us may feel a bit overwhelmed at the thought of our own mortality and the idea of arranging our own farewell, by planning ahead now you will be taking some of the logistical and financial stress from your family whilst ensuring that you have the style of funeral that you want.

### Make a Will

A Will is a legal document, which enables you to exercise your right to select those relatives and friends who will inherit the assets you have acquired during your lifetime. When making a Will the choice of an executor is vital. It is advisable to choose someone who will act independently and without bias in the interests of the beneficiaries.

It is often the case that a relative or friend is nominated as the executor but, due to the complexities of the role in today's legal minefield, many are choosing to appoint a legal representative.

Your Will should be reviewed whenever there is change in circumstances, or at least every five years to ensure it accords with your current wishes.

Marriage automatically revokes a Will (unless it was prepared in contemplation of marriage). Divorce does not revoke a Will, although some rights of the former spouse under the Will generally lapse.

The following funeral requests and requirements can be specified in the Will: choice of Funeral Director; church or religious affiliation; wishes as to burial or cremation, the venue for the funeral service; details of cemetery plots, whether family owned or yet to be purchased, memorial instructions and niche for placement of ashes. Your Will should be kept in a safe place of which should be made known to your next of Kin or legal representative.

## Planning With Eternity Funerals

When you pre-plan your funeral with Eternity Funerals, we will meet with you to document your wishes and instructions. We will also help you with all arrangements, including the pre-purchase of burial plot(s), choosing a coffin, the style of service you would like and any tributes you would like to include. We can also document details such as who you would like as your pall bearers, and the readings, poems, songs or hymns you would like.

**Below are some of the ways Eternity Funerals can help you plan ahead:**

### Pre-arranged Funeral

This is the first step towards formally documenting your funeral wishes and your family details.

There is no financial commitment and it is not a binding contract. Rather it is a guide as to how you want to be remembered and assures those closest to you of your wishes. We have found that these simple step allows peace of mind for your family in the time to come.

A copy of your pre-arranged funeral plan will be kept safe with Eternity Funerals.

### Pre-paid Funeral Plan

This is a written contract which details the Funeral Service you want and fixes the price at today's cost.

In order to pre-pay your funeral, you will need to decide what your wishes are. Eternity Funerals will then provide you with an estimate and formally document the pre-paid Funeral Contract. This is when monies are exchanged and your Prepaid is complete. The advantage of a Prepaid Funeral Plan is that it is not affected by inflation. Prepaid funerals and funeral bonds are not considered an asset with Centrelink.

### Funeral Bonds

A Funeral Bond allows you to put money aside to help cover the cost of your funeral. It is not an itemised contract, but rather a 'lump sum' to be used to cover your funeral costs at the time of need. You can invest as little as \$25 per month, and stop at any time. When the time comes to access the Funeral Bond, an invoice for your funeral is written as per your wishes/family instructions and the difference is then reimbursed or invoiced to your estate.

There are limits on the maximum amount that can be invested. Feel free to ask Eternity Funerals for more details.

### Funeral Costs

The cost of a funeral varies. Generally, the overall price depends on the requests made by the family, and the quality and style of items selected. An estimate of funeral charges and disbursements will be provided to you by your Funeral Director once the family's instructions have been given.

The matter of cost should be discussed openly and honestly with your Funeral Director. If you think you may have difficulty paying for the funeral, there are many options that your Funeral Director can discuss with you. For example, you may be eligible for benefits from various community services; the deceased may have provisions in their Will; or you may be eligible to access Superannuation or financial assistance from Government agencies.

Your Funeral Director can provide you with the appropriate information and contact the relevant parties regarding your eligibility for assistance.

*Here at Eternity Funerals, we are here to help guide you through the initial steps that occur following the loss of a loved one.*

## When Death Occurs

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Whether a death occurs at home or elsewhere, the first person who should be contacted is the Doctor who was last treating the deceased who will issue a medical certificate of cause of death, therefore the deceased can be transferred to the funeral home.

If the circumstance of a death is unusual or sudden the police will need to be called, this matter will be a coroner's case. Therefore, the coroner will state when the deceased will be released to the funeral home after conducting an autopsy/post mortem if necessary to determine the cause of death.

The second person to contact is a Funeral Director who will be able to support you and prepare all of your desired funeral arrangements and needs. Through great regard and admiration, Eternity Funerals will guide and support you at this time of grief, ensuring all requirements are met and followed accordingly.

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*Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you, until we meet again!*

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## Before You Meet With Your Funeral Director

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Whilst it is important to notify the Funeral Director as soon as possible that the death has occurred, there is no need to rush to meet with your Funeral Director to discuss funeral arrangements. It is important to take this time to absorb the enormity of your loved one's passing, and to be with and support one another in your loss.

Before you meet with your Funeral Director we encourage you to read through the following chapters of this book with your family and consider aspects that are important to you and your loved one.

This is also a time to establish if your loved one had a funeral plan or prepaid plan that documents their thoughts and wishes.

## During The Initial Meeting

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The initial meeting with your Funeral Director usually takes 1 to 2 hours. We will ask personal details about your loved one such as their date of birth, details of any marriages, their occupation and details of any children. This information is legally required for the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Your Funeral Director will also ask about the type of service you wish to have, along with any personal tributes you wish to include.

It is important to understand that each person experiences grief differently and to be respectful to each other's needs and wishes. You may find yourself needing to balance the wishes of your loved one with those of the family. It is okay to put the needs of your family first. Look towards fulfilling the essence of your loved ones wishes, rather than each specific detail.

# Planning A Meaningful Funeral

The death of a loved one, whether the passing of a loved one is expected or not, losing someone close to us can suddenly place us in a space we never imagined.

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*The following few pages we outline various funeral options to assist you in creating a meaningful farewell for your loved one.*

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## After Service Refreshments

Bringing family and friends together at times of celebration and loss is natural, and sometimes expected social practice.

After the Funeral Service you may wish to continue with honouring your loved one in a more relaxed atmosphere where stories and memories can be freely shared and expressed. This could be in a public venue, function room, Church hall or at a private residence.

There are many options within the local area, such as RSL/Bowling Clubs, Sports and recreation Clubs, Cafes, restaurants and function centres. There are many halls and community centres operated by local councils that can also be hired.

Many Churches also have private facilities where you can gather. Enquiries can be made with the Minister or Bereavement Team.

Some catering companies can also assist for at home catering or within a public space.

## Recording the Service

An audio visual recording of your loved one's Service can be organised in some venues.

The digital recording is saved to a USB and is a beautiful keepsake for your family. The recorded service is invaluable for those unable to attend the service.

A professional Videographer can also be hired for other locations. Please speak with your Funeral Director for further details.

## Order of Service Booklets

A service booklet, also known as an order of service or Program, is a booklet outlining the proceedings of the Service and often becomes a cherished keepsake, for friends and family members to take home.

The order of service booklet can be very simple, or detailed. The team at Eternity Funerals personalise each order of service booklet to be a reflection of your loved one. The service booklets are custom designed using special themes, colours, hobbies and interests that were important to the deceased.

The order of service booklets are produced in consultation with the family as well as the Priest, Celebrant or Minister conducting the Service and provide the opportunity for you to include photos of your loved one, along with any special poems, quotes, thank you messages of support and an invitation to the after service refreshments.

Service Booklets can be personalised by including:

- Photo's – these could be recent or from younger years, wedding photos, treasured family photos, or with a much loved family pet.
- The words of songs or hymns to be sung during the Service.
- Quote/s that your loved one used to say.
- A meaning poem or passage of scripture.
- A photo of a favourite place, the family home or significant image that may be used as a watermark.

## 'Life in Pictures Photo Slideshow'

Photos play an important role in modern day life, capturing those special life events, family milestones and happy times. Families often express an interest in creating a Life in Pictures Slideshow to celebrate the life of their loved one. These presentations are welcome at most funeral venues and can be played at the Funeral Service or at the after service refreshment venue.

Putting together a slideshow can help family members to feel a part of the Service and can also aid in the grieving process.

If you would like to include a Life in Pictures Slideshow within the Service, please speak with your Funeral Director who can assist you with the technical requirements.

Eternity Funerals are happy to assist in the preparation of the slideshow, with a minimum of two days' notice, or families are welcome to prepare the slideshow themselves.

We strongly advise testing the slideshow at least 24 hours before the Service on the equipment that will be used at the Funeral Service. This ensures that the slideshow is in the correct format, ready to be shown on the day.





## Planning A Meaningful Funeral *continued...*

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### **Soloist/Musician**

There may be a family member or close family friend willing to participate by providing some live music either before or during the Service. Alternatively, Eternity Funerals can also assist with organising a professional soloist or musician.

### **Bagpiper**

A bagpiper playing at a Funeral Service is an especially fitting tribute for a loved one with strong Celtic ties.

If you wish to include a bagpiper within the service, please speak with your Funeral Director who will be happy to organise this on your behalf.

### **Dove Release**

Dove releases are available all year round, and can be organised through Eternity Funerals

Instructions are given by the Dove Handler for families wishing to hand release the doves.

### **Balloon Release**

Eternity Funerals can supply markers for attendees to write a special message on the balloons before they're released. Please note that in NSW a balloon release allows a maximum of 19 balloons.

### **Mourning Car**

Families may wish to travel to and from the Service venue together. Please speak with your Funeral Director who can organise suitable vehicles for your family.

### **Floral Tributes**

Floral tributes are a personal and beautiful way to honour your loved one. Eternity Funerals can help you select flowers and colours that hold special meaning for your loved one, or flowers that express your love.

All arrangements are personally created and can be individually tailored to suit your needs

As well as full covers or a tie of flowers for the coffin, our florist can arrange pedestal arrangements for the Service venue, as well as single flowers, floral tribute pieces and baskets of flower petals.

### **Bookmarks and Thank You Memorial Cards**

You may wish to consider having Bookmarks or Memorial Cards in addition to, or instead of having Order of Service Booklets prepared. The bookmarks could be handed out at the Service, or at the after service refreshments. Thank you Memorial Cards provide a personalised way to send a thoughtful message to those you wish to thank.

### **Memorial Display**

A Memorial Display may be set up to display your loved one's favourite photos and special items that hold significant meaning. You may choose to have these displayed during the Funeral Service, or afterwards at the after service refreshments.

## Planning A Meaningful Funeral *continued...*

### A Guide to Writing a Eulogy

The Eulogy, or Life Story, commemorates and celebrates the life of your loved one.

Anyone can deliver the Eulogy: a family member, friend, celebrant or clergy, however it is more personal when it is delivered by someone who has known and loved the deceased. The Eulogy may even be shared, with several people contributing words of remembrance.

It can include details such as when and where your loved one was born, where they grew up, funny or interesting stories from their childhood, adulthood, occupation, sporting or academic achievements, memorable holidays, nicknames, or military service.

When preparing the Eulogy, the most important thing is to write from your heart and express what means most to you about your loved one. It doesn't need to be lengthy; a Eulogy of 3-5 minutes duration is usually ample.

Be sure to tell your audience who you are and your relationship to the deceased. Rehearse the Eulogy before the Service, and have a stand-by reader ready in case you're not emotionally able to read it on the day.

Try to relax! Everyone at the Service is there to support you and will admire your efforts for having written and presented the Eulogy.

### *Hints for writing and delivering the Eulogy*

- Write as though you are talking to a friend, for this is what you will be doing – talking to a loving, supportive group of friends.
- The Eulogy doesn't have to be formal or serious in tone. Humour can be used where appropriate. Remember that the Eulogy is a celebration and reflection of your loved one and the life you've shared.
- Prepare your speech on a computer if possible so that you can edit it as you go.
- You may wish to include a special quote or verse to open or close your speech. Favourite poetry, songs, bible verses or historical speeches can provide inspiration.
- Once you have completed your first draft, ask a trusted friend or family member to read over it and suggest any changes.
- When you are happy with your speech, type or write it out in large print with spaces between the lines. This will make it easier to read on the day.
- Arrange for backup speaker, perhaps the celebrant, to be on hand just in case you have difficulty delivering the speech on the day. Simply knowing they are there supporting you, may give you the strength you need to get through.
- If you do feel yourself overwhelmed with emotion, pause and take a deep breath. Your audience will understand and admire your efforts.
- For more details on how to write a eulogy, please visit [www.etsernityfunerals.com.au](http://www.etsernityfunerals.com.au).

## Choosing An Appropriate Venue

Eternity Funerals can assist in all styles of funeral and memorial services; from traditional church and chapel services, to modern celebrations of life held in a location with special family significance such as a favourite park, private garden, home or venue of your choice.

### When considering the venue:

- How many people are you expecting to attend the service? Is the venue large enough to accommodate everyone, or is it too large?
- Is there adequate seating?
- Do you require special facilities, for example audio or audio visual projection?
- Do you need disabled access?
- Are there any time restrictions at the venue?

### Some options include:

- A Church or other place of worship.
- A Chapel.
- Graveside service.
- A garden setting or family property.
- Parkland.
- A function centre or community hall.

### The Chapel of Eternity Funerals

Eternity Funerals has one Chapel conveniently located in the suburb of Punchbowl.

The Chapel has been styled to create a comfortable and inviting space for families and friends to gather.

Our main office and chapel is located at **25 Breust Place, Punchbowl NSW 2196.**

# Burial or Cremation

*The decision of a burial or cremation is a personal one with certain factors that may influence your decision such as the cost, religious or cultural traditions and family beliefs. In either case, the wishes of the deceased should always be followed, if they are known.*

## Choosing between a Burial or Cremation?

It's important to let your family know your wishes as to whether you want to be buried or cremated.

This can be written in your Will, or in a letter to your family. It's important that they know your intentions to avoid any unnecessary stress at the time of need. In fact this will be one of the first questions that the attending doctor and Funeral Director will ask at the time of passing.

If you choose cremation, let your family know what you'd like done with your cremated remains. Options include burial, scattering, or placing in an urn or columbarium.

## Considerations when choosing a burial

- The funeral or memorial service may be held in a church, chapel, graveside, or other suitable venue of your choice.
- Burial is generally more expensive due to the cost of purchasing the plot, headstone and other monumental stonemason work.
- Most cemeteries have options of a lawn section, or monumental section.
- A burial plot may be pre-purchased. You may wish to take this opportunity to purchase additional adjoining plots, so that family members may be buried along-side one another in the future.

## Considerations when choosing a cremation

- The funeral or memorial service may be held in a church, chapel, or other suitable venue of your choice.
- The ashes may be placed in an urn and kept, scattered at a location with special significance, buried or placed in a columbarium at a Memorial Park or Cemetery.
- Cremation is generally a more economical option.
- A cremation cannot take place if the deceased has left written directions to the contrary.

# Your Questions Answered

Having a funeral service can be very important in the grieving process. A funeral can be exactly what you want it to be: from a few words shared among your closest family and friends, to public gatherings in churches, chapels or other suitable venues.

A funeral allows us in time to stop and think about the person who has passed, as they have gone from being a physical presence to a memory. It brings mourners together, to support and encourage one another through the initial grief, and helps us move forward.

## Q: Is burial more expensive than cremation?

A: Yes, the cost of purchasing a burial plot, the interment fee/grave digging and a memorial plaque or headstone is more expensive than a cremation. Costs vary for each cemetery or crematorium.

## Q: Should our children attend the funeral?

A: This is a decision that rests with the parents. Children do experience grief and should be encouraged to express their emotions. When children are given the opportunity to attend the funeral of someone they loved and cared about, it may assist them with the finality of death in their own minds. If a child expresses a wish to attend the funeral, that wish should be encouraged.

Life education courses are often part of the school curriculum and provide an honest and open forum where death and its processes may be discussed. Some children seem to cope with grief better than many adults – but each individual, child and adult, will react differently.

## Q: What happens to the coffin after the service when being cremated?

A: The coffin is taken into the committal room where the nameplate of the coffin is removed and checked with the cremation order to ensure correct identity before the coffin is placed in the cremator. The nameplate remains outside the cremator until the cremation is complete to assist with identification of the cremated remains.

## Q: What happens to cremated remains?

A: Some people request that their cremated remains be placed in an urn and kept at home or scattered at a location that holds special significance to them – perhaps a rose garden, niche, or in the ocean. If no specific instruction has been left, your Funeral Director can make suggestions.

Sometimes it is best to wait until the right place is found. How and where the remains are distributed is the personal choice of the family.

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# Marilyn Morse Celebrant



*Helping you create a service that uniquely honours the memory of your loved one.*

Saying farewell to our loved ones is one of the most important events in the life of those we honour and love. Creating a beautiful funeral service takes time, and attention must be given to every detail in order to best capture a family's precious memories.

I understand that each family is unique and all funeral and memorial services should reflect the family's personal wishes and preferences. Listening and communicating have always been one of my strengths, and I have the ability to build strong relationships with people, ensuring each family receives the best personalised care, giving attention to the smallest of details.

0488 652 888 | marilyn24@live.com  
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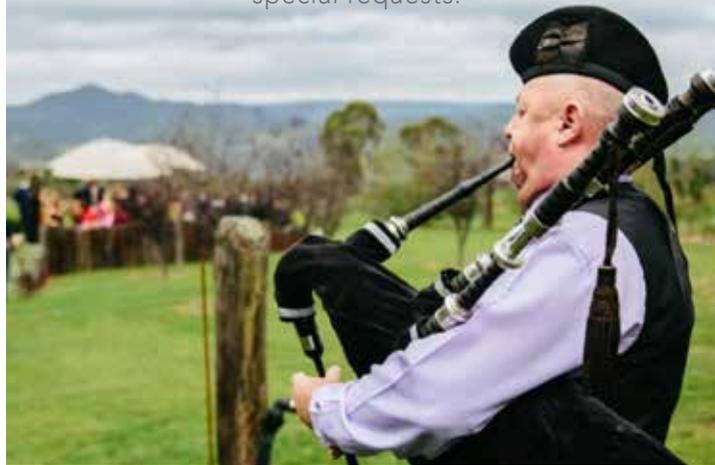


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