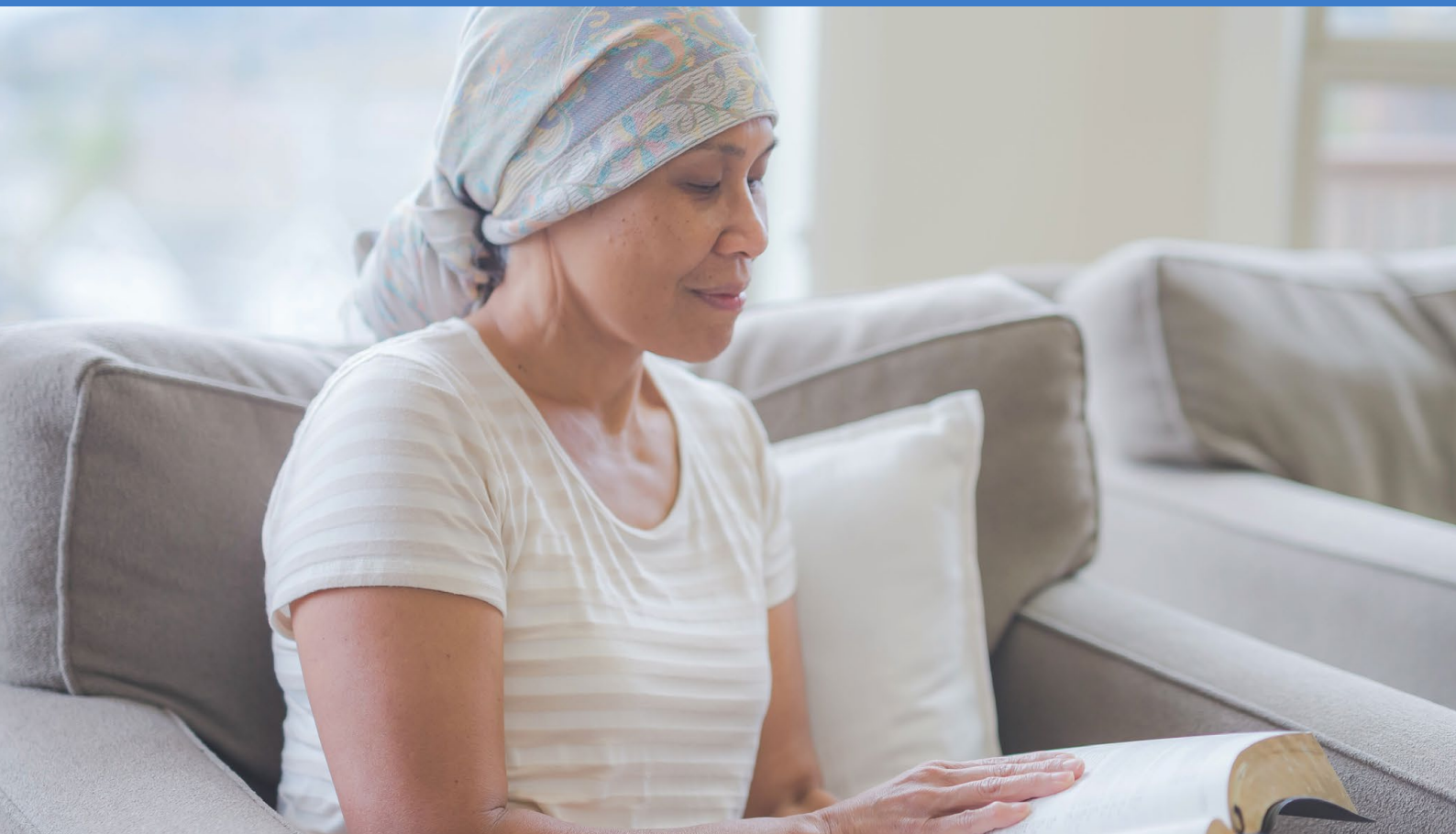


# Planning your funeral - what do you want?



Funerals are usually planned during times of great stress.  
But it doesn't have to be. We can all think about what  
we want at our funeral.

Here are some of the things you might like to think about when thinking about or planning your own funeral. You can print it and fill it in.

This could be a good discussion starter, or you can leave it for your family to help them when they need it.

Remember, the only legal function of a funeral is to legally dispose of your body – as a burial or cremation.

How you choose to structure and personalise your funeral is up to you!

# Planning your funeral - what do you want?

## The type of “burial” you want

There are many different options available for funeral services, from the very traditional (officiated by funeral directors) to alternative services (such as family-led services) and everywhere in between. Death practices are also now varied. There are sustainable burials, natural preparation of your body before interment, cremation, and more traditional burials.

This may influence your choice of funeral director.

## Burial

Have you thought about where you would like to be buried? The choice of location is not limited to traditional settings such as a cemetery.

- ☐ Internment at a cemetery
- ☐ Buried in natural bushland
- ☐ Buried at a place that is special to you

## Cremation

Have you thought what you may like to have done with your ashes?

- ☐ Spread in bushland, at sea or at place that you feel a connection too
- ☐ Kept at the family home
- ☐ Made into jewellery
- ☐ Something unique: Added to fireworks or added to underwater structures; Placed in a tree urn to be buried

## Donating your body to science

Maybe you might like to donate your body for medical research or training of medical professionals as a contribution to society once you have died.

- ☐ Donate your body for medical research

**My thoughts on my burial, cremation, or internment**

[illegible]

# Planning your funeral - what do you want?

## Planning your funeral service

You can have the option of having a single, dual (at two different locations), at the grave or a memorial service (held after the body has been interred) or have no service at all.

Think about whether you want a religious service or a service at the graveside or in the funeral home. What do you want to happen at your funeral service? Do you have music, songs, readings that matter to you? Who would you like to speak? Is there someone you would like to have conduct the service? And did you have some suggestions for sharing afterwards (at home, at a lunch or in the pub?).

## What I want when it comes to my service?

Who I want to direct the service:

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Who I want to give my eulogy:

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My favourite poem, prayer, or readings:

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I prefer donations to my favourite charity  
or flowers:

The music I would like played:

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Don't forget to invite:

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# Planning your funeral - what do you want?

## Remembering me

There are lots of ways that people can remember you. You might like to share your thoughts.

### I would like a Headstone or marker:

- ☐ Flat marker set on the grave
- ☐ Flat tablet on concrete slab
- ☐ Headstone or statue

### What I want to wear:

- ☐ Favourite dress or suit
  - ☐ Casual wear
  - ☐ My choice is:
- 

### I would like some digital options:

- ☐ Online memory book
- ☐ Digital tombstones (shows your life story)
- ☐ Legacy messages for my family after my death
- ☐ Digital avatar
- ☐ AI digital afterlife

## Coffins and caskets – Choosing what you are buried or cremated in

It can get confusing with so much choice. There are traditional coffins and caskets, seagrass, and even mushroom composting options. Don't be afraid to explore what is now available, you may like to choose an option that reflects your personality or beliefs.

- ☐ Traditional casket or coffin
- ☐ A personalised casket or coffin that is handmade to my specifications

### Environmentally friendly options

- ☐ Chipboard
- ☐ Cardboard
- ☐ Woven
- ☐ Wicker
- ☐ Seagrass
- ☐ No casket or coffin, I would like to be buried or cremated in just a shroud



# Planning your funeral - what do you want?



## Need some more information?

Here are some resources with more information about funerals, planning checklists and alternative funerals that you may like to explore.

### [Australian Funeral Directors Australia](#)

provides information on finding providers and planning funerals in Australia.

[CANSTAR website](#) provides information on how to plan funerals or memorial services.

[Gatheredhere website](#) has resources that can assist in planning and finding end of life services across Australia, this site also has the checklist on How to Prepare for the Death of a Loved One.

[Garments for the Grave](#) is a website by Dr Pia Interlandi who designs and creates burial garments including funeral shrouds.

[Gippsland Unwrapped](#) presents a blog written by Tammy Logan who is passionate about planning well for the end of our life and reducing on impact of death on the environment - Planning a Sustainable Funeral.

[Funeral Planner website](#) has information on the process of donating your body to science - How do you donate a body to science in Australia.

[Natural Death Advocacy Network website](#) has information, factsheets and checklists that can help you to plan funerals, including family-led services.