

Committal:

If there is to be a committal at some other location the service will end with an abbreviated committal, which may include a prayer and /or benediction.

If a private cremation or burial at some other site is arranged then the committal may contain a reading, prayer and/or a blessing.

Recessional Music:

As the casket is carried out, a suitable piece of music may be played. A guard of honour may also be arranged.

Funeral Directors have brochures to assist in the preparation of funeral services and experienced celebrants have a variety of resources. There are few restrictions on what can be included.

What is important is that it is your funeral and should be a respectful celebration that honours your life and eases the grief of your family and friends.




A supportive programme for carers and families who are looking after a family member or friend with a serious illness.

For the latest programme, or more info, visit our website, or contact us.

Otago Community Hospice
PO Box 8002
293 North Road, Dunedin
New Zealand

Tel: 03 473 6005
Fax: 03 473 6015
otagohospice@xtra.co.nz
reception@otagohospice.co.nz



PLANNING YOUR OWN FUNERAL

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IT'S YOUR FUNERAL.

There is nothing wrong with planning your own funeral. Some may believe that to plan your funeral is to invite death but many people understand that they will die and a funeral is like any other significant event - better planned than not! Planning your funeral also recognises that your death will seriously impact on the lives of those near and dear to you. It may help to take the initiative and suggest some tone and content for a celebration of your life.

Burial or cremation?

To plan your funeral should be no more difficult than writing a will. The following suggestions are made recognising that after your death your family will respect your wishes and it may ease their stress.



Who will be responsible for your funeral?

Funeral Directors regularly advertise in daily newspapers and are listed in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory. Such a person or firm with whom you have had past dealings may be an obvious choice. The Funeral Directors uplift your body from the place of death, prepare your body and embalm it if necessary, attend to newspaper notices and the necessary registration and legal requirements. They can advise on casket choice, order flowers and, if necessary, arrange catering. They can also advise you on financial assistance that might be available.

A key element of your funeral will be considering the person you would like to conduct your funeral service. That person will be responsible for the appropriate presentation of a service that meets

the needs of your family in the light of your preferences. That person may be a Minister of Religion, known to the family; a lay celebrant; or a person contacted by the Funeral Director.

Content:

A funeral service may include some or all of the following but is not limited to these and other elements may be added as seem appropriate. Bear in mind that the purpose of the service is to honour the memory of the deceased and support the family and loved ones, in their grief.

Pre-service music and/or slide presentation:

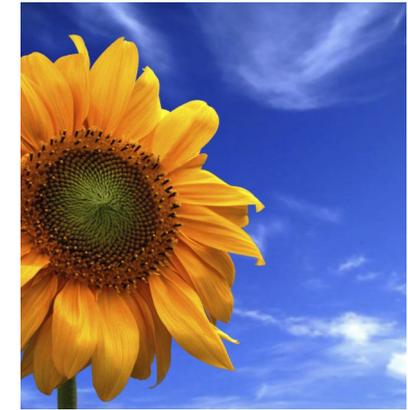
A selection of favourite music may be played. Funeral Directors' Chapels and most churches are fitted with efficient sound systems to play CD's and DVD's and may be able to transcribe selections from other media. They may also be able to arrange musical instruments with accomplished musicians to play special requests. Funeral Directors may also be able to arrange a slide show of photographs to run on a PowerPoint format that will provide a focus for attention before the service begins.

Introduction:

Words of welcome and greetings can set the tone for the whole service. These should be carefully considered. An expression of thanks addressed to friends and an invitation to share refreshments after the service may be all that is necessary. Any particular aspect of the service may also be indicated at this point.

Readings:

A selection of carefully chosen readings from a variety of sources may be shared by members of the family or close friends. Favourite poems, book readings and short prose selections from well remembered books that you enjoyed are recommended. Alternatively an experienced celebrant might contribute these.



Hymns or favourite song:

If for you it is appropriate, you may choose a hymn(s), or favourite song(s) to be sung or included. This allows those attending to become something more than mere observers and share in your favourite music while reflecting on your life.

Prayers:

Prayers may be offered if that is your/family's wish. The inclusion of some traditional prayers may be appreciated by senior family members.

Tributes:

A member of the family or close friend may wish to present a tribute. Be aware it is best that the person delivering is confident at public speaking as this can be very stressful and emotional. A celebrant may also be able to present a tribute prepared by the family if required.

Should a person other than close family offer to speak, they should speak first and may be advised to be brief. Unscripted speeches can be disastrous. Work mates of long standing can often express a view that is both fresh and helpful.

Reflection:

The celebrant may choose to offer a reflection on the life of the person who has died if there is some personal knowledge.