

Do I have to register the death?

No. The Funeral Director does this on your behalf but will require personal and family information concerning the person who has died. The Funeral Director will also arrange for the Registrar to issue and send to the next of kin a certified copy of the official Death Certificate.

The Funeral Directors in this area are the *Batemans Bay & Moruya District Funeral Pty Ltd*. Offices are located in Batemans Bay (tel: 4472 8886), Moruya (tel: 4474 3555) and Narooma (tel: 44763888). The *Eurobodalla Lady Funerals* (tel: 4472 8075) are also available in this area. *John R Whyman Funeral Services* are available in Bega on 6492 4111 or in Pambula on 64957888 as are *Sapphire Coast Funerals* on 6495 7077. For a sea burial contact *Sea Burials Australia* on 0414 299 223. *Broulee Memorial Gardens and Crematorium* can be contacted on 4471 5867.

Do I need to have a gathering after the funeral?

It can be very helpful for family and friends to meet afterwards in the social atmosphere to remember and relive the special times that they have shared with the person who has died. However, whether to have a gathering is a decision for the members of the family concerned.

After the funeral

There is a non-religious education program on change, loss and grief called *Seasons for Growth*. If you would like to know more, contact Sr Mary Murphy on 4472 4153.

The Palliative Care Volunteers will also be supportive during this time and can be contacted on 4474 1641 as are the Pastoral Care Workers on 4473 5407.

Finally, if you would like to discuss any of the above in more detail, the Chaplains are available.



For Further Information Contact:

Eurobodalla Palliative Care Service

Moruya NSW

Telephone: 1300 795 440

or (02) 4474 5100

Fax: (02) 4474 5111

Acknowledgement:

Griffith Area Palliative Care Service



Level 1

73 Vulcan Street

MORUYA NSW 2537

**Eurobodalla Palliative
Care Service**

*Planning a Meaningful
Funeral*



Tel: 1300 795 440

What is a funeral?

A funeral is the celebration of life of the loved one who has died. It is also the opportunity for those who have known the person to say goodbye. A funeral can often assist the bereaved family and friends to accept the reality of the death, to express their emotions in a safe way and to confirm beliefs about life and death. For these reasons it is important to take time to plan the funeral.

When should arrangements for the funeral be made?

For most funerals the arrangements are made after the person has died. However, this is a stressful time, and it is quite in order to commence planning earlier than this. You may be able to consider options and costs in advance of the death. It may be possible for the person's preferences to be determined at this time. The funeral could be pre-arranged with a Funeral Director who could also give details about pre-payment plans.

What do I do after the death?

The first step is to contact a Funeral Director of your choice. If the person was a member of a church or other faith you can also contact the clergy or the Funeral Director can make this contact. Your loved one can be at home or be cared for at the hospital until they are transferred by the Funeral Director to their establishment.

What is there to plan?

There are many different types of funeral services that can be conducted. The service can be religious or non-religious and can be held in a church or other religious building, the Funeral Director's chapel, the crematorium chapel or at the graveside.

The service can be as individual as the person who died. You may, for example, choose special music

or poetry to be included. One or more members of the family or friends may speak about the person or provide information to the clergy or celebrant for inclusion in the service.

You may choose flowers to be placed on the coffin. A photograph of your loved one can be displayed. Whatever is an expression of your love or part of your farewell is possible.

So take your time to consider your preferences. It is usually helpful to discuss the options with members of your family or friends.

Some early decisions

A decision you will need to make is whether or not you have chosen a burial or cremation. The nearest crematorium is at Broulee. Decisions about where the burial will take place also needs to be made. For example, will the family burial plot be used? The type of service and the venue will also need to be considered. The Funeral Director can help you with all this planning.

What does the Funeral Director do?

The Funeral Director takes responsibility for attending to the legal requirements associated with the death and for making the necessary physical arrangements for the funeral that meet your needs and wishes.

The initial interview with the Funeral Director can be at their offices or in your home. At this interview, the funeral director will advise you about the alternatives available and costs involved so that you can make appropriate choices.

The Funeral Director will provide a wide range of services including:

- Liaison with crematorium or cemetery and prepare the appropriate documentation

- Contact with clergy or celebrant
- Place newspaper and radio notices if required
- Help you choose a coffin
- Dress your loved one in their own clothes if you wish to provide them
- Arrange for flowers to go on the coffin if you do not wish to arrange this for yourself
- Provide a car for relatives to attend the service if required
- Arrange for a viewing of the deceased prior to the funeral.

How much will it cost?

While some of the costs involved in the funeral are set (e.g. crematorium or burial fees and the Funeral Director's service fee), other costs will depend upon your choices—for example, the coffin selected (there is a wide selection at different prices) or if you would like the Funeral Director to arrange for newspaper notices and/or flowers to be placed on the coffin.

A funeral usually costs at least \$4500. It is quite appropriate to ask the Funeral Directors for a quote.

What day do I have the funeral?

Usually funerals are held between three and seven days after the death but additional time can be allowed for people to travel from interstate or even overseas if required. It is more expensive to hold a funeral on Saturday because penalty rates are involved.

Can I see my loved one again?

Known as a 'Viewing', this may be held at the Funeral Director's premises. Some people find that viewing, whilst often painful, can help them accept their loss with less difficulty. There may be an additional charge because of the preparations involved.

1300 795 440 (24 HOURS)