

Thinking Ahead:

For the Patient - Some people at the end stage of their life like to be involved in the planning of their funeral. Some of the things that are useful to consider in planning your funeral are mentioned later in this information sheet.

If you have someone in mind to conduct your funeral you might want to consult with them about the details and what you would like to happen at your funeral service. Some people are happy to leave the funeral planning to family and whānau, or perhaps to a specific person in whom they, and you, have confidence. In this case, the family and whānau or nominated Funeral Celebrant takes a lead role in planning a suitable funeral for you. If you are unsure of who might act as your Funeral Celebrant, your Funeral Director will be able to provide you with names of people who could be contacted.

When Death Occurs:

For the Family and Whānau - When a person dies every effort is made to provide a supportive environment for family and whānau to spend whatever time is available with their loved one.

If your loved one has been in the care of the Hospice or of an Aged Residential Care (ARC) facility, staff there will be present to offer their care and to answer questions which may arise at this time. They will care for the body of your loved one. Staff welcome the help of family and whānau in this special task. If your loved one has died at home, District Nurses and/or Palliative Care Co-ordinators will be available to offer support at this time.

Spiritual Support:

When a person dies some family wish their spiritual/pastoral support person to be present to conduct prayers/karakia or other religious rites. If you need assistance in contacting this person, Hospice or ARC staff can help.



The Funeral Director:

If the services of a Funeral Director are required, it is usual to contact them at this time. The Funeral Director will then call at a pre-arranged time to remove the body of your loved one.

If your loved one dies in the Hospice or in an ARC facility, you may choose to be present when the Funeral Director calls, or you may prefer to go home, leaving staff to pass your loved one on into the care of the Funeral Director.

Sometimes family and whānau find it helpful to have an initial consultation with the Funeral Director when he/she comes to remove their loved one from home, the Hospice or ARC facility. Some or all of the following matters can be discussed with the Funeral Director at this early stage:

- Whether the deceased person is to be buried or cremated
- Whether the deceased person is to be taken home prior to the funeral service
- The likely venue for the funeral
- The likely day and time of the funeral service
- The name of the person who is to conduct the funeral
- The wording for a death notice to appear in local and/or other newspapers

If it is not appropriate to discuss all these matters during the initial meeting with the Funeral Director, he/she will arrange a time to meet with you to make the necessary arrangements.

As part of this follow up meeting, the Funeral Director will need to record some details, required by law, of the deceased person's life.

Please see the final page of this leaflet for a guide to the sorts of information the Funeral Director will require.

Things to consider:

Generally today families and whānau want a spirit of celebration to flow through the funeral service. It is good to remember that while a funeral service is to mark the life of the person who has died, it is also intended to be fitting for those who remain to mourn their loved one's death.

Music: Music usually plays an important part in the celebrations of a person's life; favourite songs can be played, hymns sung, instruments played, and incidental music chosen that fits the occasion; your funeral celebrant will be able to suggest points in the service where the chosen music will fit well.

Readings: These could be readings from the scriptures of your religious tradition, if you have one; they could be other writings which convey ideas which fit well with the intent of the service.

Tributes: People can offer a tribute or eulogy; in addition, an opportunity can be given during the funeral service for other people to speak briefly during the tribute time.

Prayers: For many it is helpful to include prayers in the service; prayers for the person who has died, prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of comfort and support, and perhaps other prayers appropriate to the occasion.

Visual Presentation: Depending on the facility in which the funeral is held, it is possible that a Power Point style presentation summarising the life being celebrated could be shown. Consult with your Funeral Director.

Information required by the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages:

- Full name of deceased person
 - Name at birth
 - Birth date
 - Birth place
 - Ethnic group
 - Address
 - If not born in NZ, year of arrival in NZ
 - Profession / occupation
 - Full name of father, and his profession / occupation
 - Full name of mother, and her profession / occupation
- Married / civil union / separated / divorced
- First marriage/union details
 - Where married / united
 - Age when married / united
 - To whom married / united
 - Living spouse/partner's birth date
- Second and subsequent marriages / unions to be recorded separately
- Children living
 - Sons' names and birth dates
 - Daughters' names and birth dates
- Service record
 - Service number
 - Overseas / NZ service
 - Which war
 - Rank, unit or regiment

**For further information or assistance
Please contact George Dempster
Spiritual Care Coordinator**

Arohanui Hospice

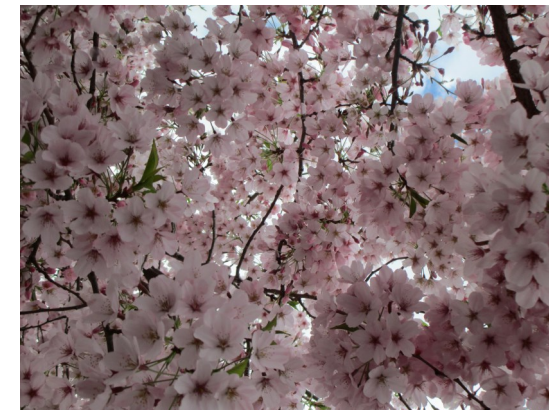
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Planning for a Funeral



This brochure offers some guidance in preparing for a funeral.

Planning for a funeral can help reduce anxiety in the terminal phase of life.

www.arohanuihospice.org.nz