

## Information required by The Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages

### Details of deceased person

- Name at birth
- Date and place of birth
- 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

### Marital details

- 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

- Names and birth dates of children (including whāngai where applicable)

### Service record (if applicable)

- Service number
- Overseas/NZ service
- Which war
- Rank, unit or regiment

*This brochure offers some guidance in preparing for a funeral. Planning for a funeral can help reduce anxiety in the final phase of life.*



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# Planning for a Funeral

## Thinking Ahead

### For the patient

Some people choose to plan ahead for what happens after they die. This may include planning a funeral, tangihanga, or other cultural or spiritual practices that are important to them and their whānau/family.

If you would like to be involved in planning, you may wish to talk to your whānau or someone you trust about what matters most to you. This might include who will lead the service, where it will be held, and any cultural, spiritual, or personal wishes.

Some people choose to leave these decisions with their whānau or a trusted person. In this case, your whānau/family, or a person you have nominated, may take the lead in planning arrangements that reflect your wishes.

If you are unsure where to start, hospice staff can support you and your whānau to explore your options.

## When Death Occurs

### For the whānau/family

When a person dies, every effort is made to provide a supportive environment for whānau/family to spend time with their loved one. If your loved one has been in the care of Arohanui Hospice or in an Aged Residential Care (ARC) facility, staff there will be present to guide and support you. They will care for the body of your loved one and you can be involved in their care in whatever way feels right for you and your whānau/family. If your loved one has died at home, district nurses and/or palliative care nurses will be available to guide you. You do not have to navigate this alone.

## The Funeral Director

If you choose to engage a funeral director, it is usual to contact them at this time. They will arrange a time with you to come and take your loved one into their care.

If your loved one dies at Arohanui Hospice or in an ARC facility, you may choose to be present when the funeral director calls. You may prefer to go home and staff can take care of transferring your loved one into the care of the funeral director.

Sometimes whānau/family find it helpful to have an initial conversation with the funeral director when their loved one is collected. This can include discussion about:

- Whether your loved one is to be buried or cremated
- Whether your loved one 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, they 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 (refer to final page of this leaflet).

## Planning your own funeral (DIY Funerals)

Legally in New Zealand you do not have to engage a funeral director. Some whānau/family choose to take a more hands-on approach, leading arrangements themselves or with support from their community. It is highly recommended that if a DIY funeral is your

preference, the planning commences prior to death as there are certain aspects that can only be organised during working hours. For further information see your hospice social worker.

## Things to Consider

Generally, whānau/families 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 a 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 role and may include favourite songs, waiata, hymns, or instrumental pieces.

**Readings:** Readings may include religious texts, poems, personal stories, or other writings that reflect your loved one's life, values, and the memories you hold of them.

**Tributes:** Whānau and others may wish to speak, share memories, or offer a eulogy during the service.

**Karakia, prayers, and cultural practices:** Karakia, prayers, and other spiritual or cultural practices are an important part of many services. These may include karakia, waiata, scripture, or other expressions of belief and identity.

**Visual tribute:** Depending on the funeral venue, it is possible that a slideshow presentation summarising the life being celebrated could be shown. Consult with your funeral director.

**Livestream online:** Many funeral chapels, churches and other venues have the facilities to offer live-streaming of the service for whānau/family and friends overseas or around Aotearoa New Zealand.