

# Funeral Planning Checklist - Australia

This funeral planning checklist sets out all the questions you will need to answer to plan a funeral service for your loved one. It is broken down into 3 sections:

1. Key Details Checklist
2. Funeral Service Checklist
3. Funeral Items & Services Checklist

This funeral planning checklist can be used as a:

- Prepaid funeral planning checklist
- At-need funeral planning checklist

For further guidance, see our [Guide to Planning a Funeral Service](#).

For help regarding what to do immediately after a death, see our [Checklist for What to Do When Someone Dies](#).

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## 1. Key Details Checklist

These are the most basic questions you need to answer when planning a funeral and must be answered before planning the funeral service and arranging any funeral items.

- [Burial or cremation?](#)
- Religion of the service (if any)?
- Do you own a grave plot?
  - If not, do you have a preferred cemetery or crematorium?
- What location(s) or venue(s) would you like the funeral service to take place at?
  - Funeral home chapel
  - Place of worship
  - Cemetery or crematorium chapel
  - Private property
  - Public space (like a park or beach)
  - Graveside
- What would you like to do with remains?

- If a burial:
  - Grave
  - Crypt
  - Private property
- If a cremation:
  - Cemetery lawn or rose garden
  - Wall niche
  - Kept in the family home
  - Scattering

Before proceeding further, you should also set a budget. For guidance, you might find the following resources helpful:

- [The Average Cost of a Cremation in Australia](#)
  - [The Average Cost of a Burial in Australia](#)
  - [Guide to Assistance with Funeral Costs](#)
  - [Guide to Cheap Funerals](#)
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## 2. Funeral Service Checklist

There are many options available when it comes to planning a funeral service. These questions will help you decide on the type of funeral service that is most appropriate and how it can be personalised for your loved one.

### Structure of the Funeral Service

- Would you like a viewing, visitation or wake?
- What type of funeral service would you like?
  - Single service - takes place at one location (such as a chapel or church) without proceeding to the cemetery or crematorium
  - Dual service - starts at one location (such as a chapel or church) and proceeds to the cemetery or crematorium for the final committal ceremony
  - Graveside service - takes place entirely at the graveside
  - No service, no attendance - does not involve any service or attendance (also known as a "direct committal")
  - [Memorial service](#) - takes place after the body has been buried or cremated
- Would you like a reception or gathering after the funeral or memorial service?

### Personalising the Funeral Service

- Who would you like to officiate the ceremony?
  - Celebrant
  - Priest
  - Clergy
  - Minister
  - Funeral director
- Who would you like to serve as pallbearers?
- Who would you like to deliver eulogies?
- Who would you like to deliver prayers, poems or other readings?
- What prayers, poems or other readings would you like read?
- What songs or hymns would you like sung?
- What music would you like played?
- Is there an organisation you would like attendees to make a donation to?

### Attendees

- Approximately how many attendees are you expecting?
  - Have you made a list of all attendees that you would like to invite?
  - Are there any groups, clubs or organisations that you would like to be notified and invited to the funeral?
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## 3. Funeral Items & Services Checklist

Finally, there are a number of items that are required to carry out the funeral. Your funeral director will help you source and arrange these items.

*(Note: Not all of these items are mandatory, and you may be able to save money by arranging some of these items yourself.)*

### Mandatory Funeral Items

- [Coffin](#)
- [Cremation urn](#)
- Gravemarker
- Gravestone or tombstone, and inscription

## Optional Funeral Items & Services

- Transportation for the family
    - Limousine
    - Funeral car
  - Flowers
  - Photos to be displayed
  - Online / newspaper notices
  - Orders of service
  - Thank you cards
  - Memorial book
  - Musicians
  - Catering
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## Finding a Funeral Director

Once you have answered the questions above and are clear on the funeral you would like to arrange, it's time to find a funeral director. Gathered Here lets you instantly compare the prices and customer reviews for over 660 funeral homes around Australia. To get started:

1. Go to [www.gatheredhere.com.au](http://www.gatheredhere.com.au)
2. Select burial or cremation
3. Select the type of funeral you would like
4. Select whether you would like a viewing
5. Type in your postcode and click "Compare"

For more guidance on finding the right funeral director in your area, see our city specific guides:

- [Funeral Directors, Sydney](#)
- [Funeral Directors, Melbourne](#)
- [Funeral Directors, Brisbane](#)
- [Funeral Directors, Adelaide](#)
- [Funeral Directors, Perth](#)

We hope you have found this funeral planning checklist helpful. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [support@gatheredhere.com.au](mailto:support@gatheredhere.com.au).