

Funeral Financial Assistance

There are several types of financial assistance that may be available to help you pay for a funeral. This especially applies to the partner of the person who died. It is important to tell those who support you if you are worried about money.

Many funeral directors will talk to you about payment plans. They will not be surprised if you mention cost as part of your decision-making in the planning of the funeral.

Centrelink

Phone: 136240

Government assistance is available in some situations. You will need to talk about your situation with Centrelink staff. You should also contact them if you have any questions about your pension or bereavement payment. It is important to know:

- If your partner has died, you will need to apply for a new pension or for an individual pension.
- A bereavement payment may be available to you as a lump sum payment.
- Money to help with the funeral expenses of a pensioner who has died may be available.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Phone: 1800 555254

A funeral benefit will be automatically paid to the estate of some veteran pensioners who have died but not all. It is important to tell the Department of Veterans Affairs that the veteran pensioner has died and put in an application for funeral benefits.

Insurance Companies

When someone has died in a motor vehicle accident, an accident in the workplace or at a sporting event you may be able to receive an insurance payment. This may also happen if the person died because of a crime or if the person had life insurance. You will need to talk with the relevant insurance company to check whether you can receive a payment.

Deceased Estate

If the person who died left a will, a person will have been made the executor of the will. The executor has the job of doing what the person who died wanted in giving any money, property or other assets to those people named in the will. The executor also pays any debts from money left by the deceased.

Money and property of a person who has died is called the “deceased estate”. The executor must apply to the Supreme Court to have the will of the person who died registered. The process is called probate and it can take many months to happen. If the family or executor are worried about money during this time you should talk to the bank or financial institution of the person who died.

ACT Funeral Assistance Program

The ACT Funeral Assistance Program can help pay some of the cost of a basic funeral for people who lived in the ACT. To be able to get this help, you must:

- be able to prove the person who died was living in the ACT and that they were receiving a pension or benefit, or able to prove they were on a low income
- be able to show that immediate family members don't have enough money to pay for the funeral
- have not already arranged the funeral.

If you think this program can help you or you would like further information, contact:

- Tobin Brothers: 6295 2799
- Toscan Dinn: 6287 3466
- William Cole Funerals: 6253 3655

Or

ACT Revenue Office

Ph 6207 0028 – select option 6, ACT Community Assistance Scheme

Fax: 6207 0026

Email: ACTFuneralProgram@act.gov.au

Funeral Assistance for people from NSW who die in the ACT

A similar scheme to the ACT Funeral Assistance Program exists in NSW for those finding it difficult to pay for a funeral. If you think this program can help you, ask to talk with one of our social workers.

Some useful definitions

- Deceased estate*** Money and property of a person who has died.
- Executor*** Person named in the will who is responsible for following the directions left in a will. Some examples include:
- giving any money, property or other assets to those people named in the will
 - paying any debts from money left by the person who died
 - arranging the funeral.
- Funeral Director*** Funeral directors help people to make funeral arrangements when a loved one dies, for a fee.
- Probate*** The process of proving and registering in the Supreme Court the last Will of a person who has died.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

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