

How to pay for your funeral

There are different ways to plan for the cost of your funeral.

Save for your funeral

If you can, pay money into a separate savings account to help your family pay for your funeral.

Open an account with no fees and a high interest rate and save some money each week or month. Keep this account separate from your everyday account.

Tell your family about the account and what it's for. Talk to your bank about why you want the account to make sure your family can access the money when you pass away.

Prepay your funeral

Prepaid funerals allow you to choose the type of funeral you would like in advance through a funeral director. You can either pay for it in full upfront or pay it off over time.

Check if you can get a refund from your prepaid funeral if you change your mind. Also check if the funeral plan can be transferred to another funeral director if you move to another state or territory.

Funeral bonds

Funeral bonds are offered by friendly societies or life insurance companies. You pay regular amounts of money or a lump sum payment for your funeral.

The money is invested and will grow in value. It can only be used for your funeral and normally can't be accessed earlier.

Check your superannuation

Your superannuation fund will pay a sum of money to your dependents when you pass away if you have a life insurance policy with your superannuation. This is called a death benefit. This money could help pay for your funeral.

When you pass away, your family may not get your super straight away. They may have to pay for your funeral before they get money from your super fund.

Phone your super fund and ask them if you have a life insurance policy.

Funeral insurance

Funeral insurance is a financial product that you make regular ongoing payments to until you pass away. When you've passed, your family receives an amount of money to cover the cost of your funeral.

Funeral insurance may be poor value for money

- Insurance is not a savings plan. Your family will only get an agreed amount, not all the money you put in.
- Insurance payments can add up to a lot more than your funeral actually costs.
- Payments increase as you get older, making them unaffordable if your income decreases.
- If you miss payments or cancel the policy, your family won't be able to make a claim or get your money back.

Get help with funeral cost decisions

For help deciding which option is best for you, contact:

- Mob Strong Debt Help - **1800 808 488**
- National Debt Helpline - **1800 007 007**

For free legal advice about a funeral product you already have, contact:

- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service - **1800 064 865**
- Koori Help Line (Vic) - **1800 574 457**
- Legal Aid Queensland Indigenous Hotline - **1300 650 143**
- Civil Law Service for Aboriginal Communities (Legal Aid NSW) - **1800 793 017**