

Choosing a Celebrant for your Funeral or Memorial Service



FCAA Celebrants know that planning a wonderful and fitting funeral or memorial service for a loved one can be daunting for family and friends who are dealing with their grief. FCAA members are highly professional celebrants who meet with bereaved families and friends and provide guidance and support for them.

The FCAA Celebrant crafts and delivers a personalised funeral or memorial service that is dignified and respectful and honours the life of the deceased person. The celebrant liaises with the Funeral Director to ensure a quality service is delivered and is one that incorporates the wishes of the family.

Funeral celebrants are independent and work confidentially so feel free to contact an FCAA Celebrant and ask questions about a funeral or memorial service. See helpful Q&A over page.



Confidential interviews with family



Involving children



Customs and Rituals



Location



Celebrant

Visit our website for Celebrant Listing and other helpful information

Australia's only dedicated not-for-profit incorporated association for Funeral Celebrants. Established 2007.

www.funeralcelebrants.org.au

email: info@funeralcelebrants.org.au

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Q. What is the difference between a funeral and memorial service?

A. The deceased body is in a coffin/casket/shroud at a funeral service. A memorial service is a service held to memorialise a deceased person with their body not present. This gives greater flexibility on choice of venue.

Q. How long does a funeral ceremony usually last?

A. Most funerals last about 20 to 30 minutes but if you feel that this will not be long enough for the service, the chapel may be booked for a longer period.

Q. May I choose my own celebrant or do I have to use the celebrant recommended by the funeral director?

A. You may choose your own celebrant and inform your funeral director who it will be. You are not obliged to use the celebrant recommended by the funeral director.

Q. Who pays the funeral celebrant?

A. If the FCAA celebrant is arranged by the funeral director then her/his fee is paid by them. The celebrant's fee will be itemised in the funeral director's account. However, if you choose your own FCAA celebrant you pay them directly.

Q. Will my celebrant visit me in my home to discuss the content of the funeral service?

A. Your FCAA celebrant will visit you in your home to discuss the funeral service, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Q. How will my celebrant dress?

A. Your FCAA celebrant will dress in a professional way to show respect to the occasion. If you have a special request, your celebrant will do their best to comply with your wishes.

Q. Will the celebrant help us with the choice of readings and music for the service?

A. Your FCAA celebrant will have many resources and will be able to suggest readings and music. This discussion and recommendations can take place when she/he visits you to plan the service.

Q. Will the celebrant write the eulogy if we give her/him the information?

A. Your FCAA celebrant is capable and skilled at writing eulogies. You will need to give her/him information about your relative's life when you meet to plan the funeral. See our website for a Service Planning form.

Q. Why should I use a celebrant who is a member of Funeral Celebrants Association Australia?

A. Members of FCAA have agreed to a Code of Practice and undertake to complete yearly Professional Development. Any celebrant who does not adhere to the FCAA high standards will not remain a member.

Q. Is it possible for us to have an audio-visual presentation about the life of our relative?

A. Many crematoria chapels have facilities for DVD. Tell your funeral director if you want to be able to have this.

Q. Is it appropriate for family members or friends to give a eulogy or a reading?

A. It is very appropriate for family members or friends to participate in the service as it makes it more personal. Discuss this with your FCAA celebrant and she/he will advise the best way to incorporate this into the service.

Q. Should younger members of the family be included in giving a reading?

A. Younger members can participate if they are willing. Your FCAA celebrant will be there to make sure that their contribution is supported. Sometimes, two younger people will do a joint reading or joint tribute.

Q. Will my celebrant include religious content in the funeral service if that's what our family wants?

A. Your FCAA celebrant will be happy to include religious content if that is what the family wants. Many people, while having no special church affiliation, take comfort from some religious content in the service. Others feel that a religious component will comfort other family members. Discuss this with your FCAA celebrant.

Q. Is it possible to include symbols, rituals, music or readings in the funeral service?

A. Culturally appropriate rituals are appropriate within the restrictions of the chapel or venue. Discuss this with your FCAA celebrant.

Q. Will the celebrant help us with the design of a Program for the mourners attending the service?

A. The family prepares the Order of Service or Funeral Program in discussion with the celebrant. Either the family or Funeral Director will print the Order of Service.

Q. Will I get a presentation copy of the service?

A. FCAA celebrants will give you a presentation copy of the funeral service as a memento. Many celebrants will also provide you with an e-copy of the service so that it may be distributed to family members.

Q. What qualifications do funeral celebrants have?

A. Most FCAA celebrants have completed accredited training as a funeral celebrant and have extensive experience in conducting ceremonies. Many are registered marriage celebrants as well.

Q. How do I find out about the disposal of cremains (cremation ashes)?

A. N.S.W. Department of Health have an excellent fact sheet which can be accessed at this web address. http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/general/cremation_ashes.html (link is external)

Q. How do I remove the digital footprint of my loved one after death?

A. Your relative may have left instructions. However, there is an online service which allows grieving families to decide what happens to their loved ones social networks after they are gone. There is a cost involved in this service. <http://eclosure.com.au>