



Government  
of South Australia

Department for Communities  
and Social Inclusion

## Important information

To be eligible for assistance through the Funeral Assistance Program, you will need to provide evidence of the amount of income, assets and liabilities of the deceased and their immediate relatives.

Providing supporting documents such as a Centrelink pension card, Department of Veterans' Affairs card and bank statements for all bank accounts held by the deceased and their immediate relatives will help to ensure that your application can be assessed without delay.

To obtain more information or assistance with an application please contact the Funeral Assistance Program on 1300 762 577.

## Alternative formats:

The information in this publication can be provided in an alternative format or another language on request:

Phone: (08) 8413 9072

Email: [DCSIMediaandCommunications@dcsi.sa.gov.au](mailto:DCSIMediaandCommunications@dcsi.sa.gov.au)

## Funeral Assistance Program

Department for Communities  
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[www.sa.gov.au/concessions](http://www.sa.gov.au/concessions)



1300 762 577



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# Funeral Assistance Program

## Funeral Assistance Program

People who have recently experienced the death of a family member and who have exhausted all options to raise the funds, may be eligible to receive a basic funeral and related expenses through the Funeral Assistance Program run by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

People who are on a Centrelink benefit or have a low income, who are unable to raise funds may be able to receive assistance with a basic funeral. This is normally a cremation service, except in certain cultural circumstances. If the cultural requirements for a burial are not agreed, families may elect to pay the difference between a cremation and a burial.

- > a weekday service at a church, chapel or graveside
- > funeral director's fee
- > cemetery or crematorium fees
- > a basic coffin
- > hearse transportation to the funeral
- > religious minister or celebrant's fee
- > preparation of relevant legal transfer documents
- > legal certificate fee (not death certificate).

### It does not cover the costs of:

- > flowers
- > advertising
- > weekend services
- > memorial cards or books
- > mourning cars/limousines (transport for the family).

## Location of funeral

The funeral will be located according to where the deceased has passed away.

The program offers funerals in metropolitan Adelaide at either Centennial Park Cemetery, Enfield Memorial Park, Smithfield Memorial Park or Walkerville Cemetery.

## Types of assistance available

You may be eligible for one of two types of assistance, depending on your circumstances.

- 1** If you **have not already contracted a private funeral director** you may be eligible for **Full Contract** funeral assistance. This will provide a basic, dignified funeral.  
  
If your application is successful you will be contacted by a funeral director, who will arrange a funeral for your loved one as soon as possible.
- 2** If you **have already contracted a private funeral director**, you may be eligible for **After-the-Event** funeral assistance.

This takes the form of a one-off payment if the funeral assistance application meets the program assessment criteria and the funeral account has not yet been paid in full. The grant is paid directly to the funeral director on your behalf.

Consideration is given to applications to cover the cost of transportation of a deceased Aboriginal person to their homelands, if this is culturally required.

## Assessment criteria

To be eligible for assistance under the Funeral Assistance Program you must be able to prove that:

- > The deceased was in receipt of a pension or benefit or was a low income recipient,  
**and;**
- > The deceased's estate is estimated to be valued at less than \$3,000 when liquidated (including life insurance, superannuation and shares),  
**and;**
- > The deceased's immediate relatives are not in paid employment or are low income recipients,  
**and;**
- > The deceased's immediate relatives have insufficient assets to cover the costs of funeral expenses (less than \$3,000 in accessible funds),  
**and;**
  - a) the funeral has not yet been arranged, or
  - b) for an After-the-Event grant, the account is a moderate cost and is not yet fully paid.

### Note

"Immediate relatives" are considered to be the deceased's spouse, parents (mother and father) or adult children.

Assessment criteria are the same for both Full Contract and After-the-Event applications.