**FUNERAL AND INTERMENT/CREMATION ARRANGEMENTS**

Planning your funeral and interment/cremation arrangements can feel like an uncomfortable exercise but should be looked at as an act of love and consideration for those who are left behind.

Completing this form will give your loved ones peace of mind knowing that the arrangements being put in place are in accordance with your wishes.

The form has been designed to address most of the issues which need to be considered in how you wish to be remembered and “laid to rest”. Everyone is unique, and subject to different circumstances, so ample room has been included to enable you to tailor your instructions to meet your individual needs.

Although not a requirement, it is a common practice these days to engage a Funeral Director to overview both funeral/memorial services and interment/cremation arrangements.

Some may find addressing the issues raised in this document a little daunting. If that is the case, talking to a funeral director may be a good option. A funeral director may even be able to assist you in working through your form. See the following Section for advice on sourcing a funeral director.

**Planning for Funeral Home Assistance?**

If you do not wish to engage a funeral home and prefer your loved ones to make arrangements, please go directly to the Pre Funeral Considerations paragraph.

The identification of a suitable funeral home is a good start. It is worth researching different funeral providers before making your final choice. Some funeral providers seeming to offer small personal dedicated services are in fact actually owned by larger corporations. When researching a funeral provider it is often helpful to do so in the company of a friend.

The funeral home will need to ask a number of questions before they are able to indicate whether they are able to meet your requests/preferences, and provide you with a rough costing based on today’s prices. The completion of the funeral service and interment/cremation components of this form will provide you with most of the information you will need to relay to the prospective funeral home.

Obtain a quote based on the information you have supplied on this form. If future financing of your arrangements is likely to be an issue, enquire as to whether any loan facilities are available.

The Funeral Directors Australia (Melbourne) website has identified their top 10 picks of Funeral Directors bearing desirable qualities. Details include background information and the range of services offered, etc. See ***www.funeraldirectorsaustralia.com.au/funeral-directors-melbourne/*** for details.

**Decision on a Preferred Funeral Home**

Unless there are compelling reasons to do otherwise I would like the following Funeral Home to co-ordinate my funeral and interment/cremation arrangements.

Funeral Home Name and Location ………………………………………………………………………………

Contact Details ……………………………………………………………………………………………………..

My Name (signed) ………………………………………………………………...Date………………………….

**Pre Funeral Considerations**

The following is a guide on some of the topics you may wish to consider in relation to your funeral service.

I have/have not, any organ/tissue/body donation arrangements in place. (Please note on the Organ Donation Form included in this package)

* Body pickup details ( if you have specific requirements): …..…………………………………………………
* Body presentation/embalming details: ….……………………………………………………………………….
* Body display details (Open or closed casket): ………………………………………………………………….
* Coffin/casket details: …...…………………………………………………………………………………………
* Visitation/viewing body details: …………………………………………………………………………………..
* Hearse arrangements: …………………………………………………………………………………………….
* Additional details/comments: …………………………………………………………………………………….: ..………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Funeral/Memorial Service Preferences**

* **Prepaid Funerals**
Pre-paid funerals are becoming more popular and offer a number of benefits. See pages 22 and 23 of “Planning Ahead” publication for details on pre-paid funerals.
I have/have not a prepaid funeral arranged. (If you have a prepaid funeral in place attach details/copy the agreement to this form.
* Service to be held at ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….
* Service to be conducted by (organisation): ……………………………………………………………………………………..
* If eligible, do you wish to have an RSL Service included at your funeral service? If so, which RSL? and supply any other details ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………......
* Do you have any favorite music, hymns or songs you would like included in your Service? ........................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................
* Do you have any favorite readings/displays you would like included in your Service?
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….........................................................................................
* Do you have something compiled which you would like to be read out/displayed on your behalf? ……………………………………………………………………… (if so, attach a copy, sealed if you prefer)
* Are you happy to have people provide flowers/prefer donations? to…………………………………………………………………………………………………………or other?
* Image display. A common feature of many funerals these days is to include a Power Point display of images depicting your life as you would like to be remembered. Do you have any favorite images you would like included? A good idea is to include them on a memory stick and continue to add through your life. Details ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
* Additional comments on my preferences for my funeral. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Interment/Cremation Preferences**

1. Cremation (Private-family) ……………………………………………………………………………………. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**or**Cremation (Public) …………………………………………………………………………………………….. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………If your choice is a cremation, do you prefer to have your ashes scattered? If so, what are the details, including preferred location. Any other comments? …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Interment (Private) ……………………………………………………………………………………………..
…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… **or**
2. Interment (Public) ………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Comments in relation to interment ……………………………………………………………………………….
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

* **Gravestone/Plaque**
The preparation of a marker/gravestone/plaque is usually arranged by the cemetery. Think about what style of marker you would prefer and the wording.
Comments: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……….…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………………

## *Permission to use the service badge. All personnel who served in the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army or the Royal Australian Air Force are entitled to have their Service badge inscribed on their private memorial.  Personnel who served in the Merchant Navy are entitled to an Australian Merchant Navy badge. However, for copyright reasons, permission to inscribe a badge must first be obtained from the Office of Australian Graves.* The form “Request for Permission to use the Service Badge” is available on the DVA website.Comments: ……………………………………………………………………………………………..

## *Official Commemoration (provision of* an official memorial). Details of the current arrangements are included on the DVA Factsheet WG02. This can only be applied for at the time of death and conditions/arrangements may change in the intervening period.Comments: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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* **Graveside Service Details**Comments:………………………………………………………………………………………………...
………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
* **Pre-purchase a Cemetery Plot**
It is becoming increasingly popular to pre-purchase a gravesite plot. There are a number of advantages in buying a plot in advance of death - whether above or below ground.
* It is important for some to choose a final resting place with a pleasing aspect. Purchasing an interment plot sooner rather than later, generally not only offers you not only a greater number of sites from which to choose within any given cemetery, but also a larger selection of desirable cemetery locations.
* Like everything else, prices are rising. The price you pay for a plot of land will undoubtedly be cheaper today than what will need to be paid in the future. A pre-purchased plot will reduce the costs imposed on your family prior to the will arrangements being finalized.
* Buying a gravesite in advance gives many a measure of peace of mind and relieves your family of the pressure of identifying something relatively quickly, and making arrangements, once you pass.
* A pre-purchased plot also provides an opportunity to be co-located with a loved one once both of you have passed. Sharing a common plot is becoming increasingly popular.

Comments on my preferences for my gravesite arrangements: ………………………………………………………. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Additional References**

* The enclosed publication *“Planning Ahead”* (Department of Veterans Affairs) contains some additional information on pre-planning and pre-paid funerals, along with some general funeral information.
* Choice – Lifting the lid on funerals - ***www.choice.com.au/health-and-body/healthy-ageing/ageing-and-retirement/articles/diy-funerals-and-coffins***
* Form ***“Request for Permission to use the Services Badge” – www.dva.gov.au/commemsoawg/servicebadge/requestServiceBadge.html***
* DVA Factsheet ***“WG02 Official Commemoration” - www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-wg02-official-commemoration***

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