

Concessions and Support Services

Funeral Assistance Program



Government of South Australia
Department for Communities
and Social Inclusion

12/02/2013

Eligibility Criteria

DECEASED AND IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF THE DECEASED

(Defined specifically as being living Spouse, Mother, Father, Sons and Daughters)

- The deceased and all immediate relatives are not in paid employment and/or are in receipt of a pension, benefit or are low income earners.
- The deceased and all immediate relatives must have less than \$3000.00 in accessible funds. The deceased or the immediate relatives must not own any real estate freehold.

NOTE: Proof of income and assets must be provided by immediate relatives.

Types of Assistance

FULL CONTRACT FUNERAL

A Full Contract Funeral is where the Funeral Assistance Program pays for the essential requirements of a funeral. The family/friends of the deceased **must** apply for assistance **before** making arrangements with a Funeral Director.

NOTE: If arrangements have been made with a private Funeral Director before an application for assistance then an After the Event application needs to be submitted (see below).

As part of the Full Contract funeral, an Aboriginal Indigenous deceased person is culturally required to be transported to their homelands for burial.

When a Full Contract Funeral is provided, the Funeral Assistance Program will recoup monies from the deceased's estate, except where there are minor dependents of the deceased, joint bank account or when the deceased's payments are paid in to his/her carers bank account. Funeral expenses legally have first claim on an estate and therefore debts should not be paid or goods disposed of until funeral expenses have been met.

The family of the deceased is responsible for the payment of any extras requested, e.g. flowers, cards, personal death notices, extra services etc.

AFTER THE EVENT PAYMENT

If arrangements have been made with a private funeral director and there is an existing debt, family are able to apply for After the Event Assistance. The maximum assistance is \$625 and this will only be paid **to a funeral director, not the family or any other creditor.**

All criterion and eligibility for After the Event applications is the same as a Full Contract Funeral. The only difference between the applications is the Coordinator will request a copy of the funeral account and this must clearly show the debt outstanding for the funeral. The funeral must be a modest price funeral and this is at the discretion of the coordinator. The applicant will be advised of the outcome.

Checklist for Information Required

PROOF OF INCOME AT DATE OF DEATH

(Pension Card and/or last four pay slips, 3 months banking statements)

- The deceased
- The spouse of the deceased
- The adult children of the deceased
- The parents of the deceased

OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED

- Do they own their own home?
- If the deceased has a will a copy must be supplied
- If family are estranged a statutory declaration is required explaining the circumstances.

NOTE: For After the Event the funeral account must not be paid in full as we only pay the Funeral Directors not the client.