



Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal

Guideline No. 3 of 2019

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FUNERAL EXPENSES

Purpose

This Guideline is issued by the Chief Magistrate pursuant to section 45(1A) of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996* (the Act) for the purpose of assisting the Tribunal to determine the reasonableness of an application for an award of financial assistance for funeral expenses.

Funeral Expenses

The Tribunal may award financial assistance for funeral expenses actually and reasonably incurred, or reasonably likely to be incurred by a person as a direct result of the death of a primary victim of an act of violence (section 13(2) and section 15 of the Act). An award for funeral expenses must be deducted from the total maximum cumulative amount (\$100,000) that may be awarded to all the related victims of any one deceased primary victim pursuant to section 12 of the Act.

Reasonable Funeral Expenses

The following table provides a guide as to how the Tribunal may approach its determination as to what constitutes reasonable funeral expenses for burials and cremations: ¹

Service Description	Reasonable Cost (\$AUD excl GST)	
	Burial	Cremation
Professional fees - (Range between \$3,700 and \$5,000 includes transportation of deceased to and from service to cemetery or crematorium)	\$4,350	\$4,350
Cemetery fees - (Plot and interment fees \$3,900 - \$5,000)	\$4,500	\$1,000
Coffin/casket - (Minimum cost is \$1,500)	\$2,500	\$2,500
Memorialisation plaque - (Simple identification plaque)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Miscellaneous - (E.g., flowers, press notice, death certificate, clergy)	\$1,500	\$1,500
<i>Subtotal (excluding GST)</i>	<i>\$13,850</i>	<i>\$10,350</i>
Plus GST	\$1,385	\$1,035
Total	\$15,235	\$11,385

It would be unusual for the Tribunal to exceed the above amounts in the consideration of an interim award of financial assistance for funeral expenses.

¹ The table reflects the amounts that the Australian Funeral Directors Association (AFDA) considers to be the average reasonable cost for a burial or cremation held in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria at the time of issuing this Guideline.

The table does not include expenses incurred for:

- Catering
- Wake
- Multiple vehicles
- Memorials such as a crypt, headstone or monument
- Mausoleums
- Interment, placement or scattering of ashes
- Thank you notes or similar
- Burial or cremation fees outside the Commonwealth of Australia

The Tribunal may not fund the above expenses as part of an award for funeral expenses, however may depart from this Guideline in circumstances where it considers these expenses to be reasonable.

The applicant must provide details to the Tribunal of any funeral insurance entitlements, or other relevant funeral payments.

Commencement date

The Guideline has effect from 1 July 2019.



Peter Lauritsen
Chief Magistrate

