



Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal

Guideline No. 3 of 2021

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)	\$5,300	\$5,300
Cemetery fees - (Plot and interment fees \$3,900 - \$5,000)	\$4,700	\$1,500
Coffin/casket - (Minimum cost is \$1,500)	\$2,500	\$2,500
Memorialisation plaque - (Simple identification plaque)	\$1,200	\$1,200
Audio visual equipment hire/live streaming	\$1,500	\$1,500
Miscellaneous - (E.g., flowers, press notice, death certificate, clergy)	\$1,500	\$1,500
<i>Subtotal (excluding GST)</i>	<i>\$16,7000</i>	<i>\$13,500</i>
Plus GST	\$1,670	\$1,350
Total	\$18,370	\$14,850

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.

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.

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

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.

Overseas residents

When an overseas resident dies as result of an act of violence whilst visiting Victoria, the Tribunal can contribute towards the reasonable funeral costs incurred.

This includes:

- Funeral director service fee
- Burial/cremation outside of Australia
- Mortuary
- Coffin
- Metal liner
- Consulate fees
- The reasonable cost of airfreight/transfer fee to the country of residency.

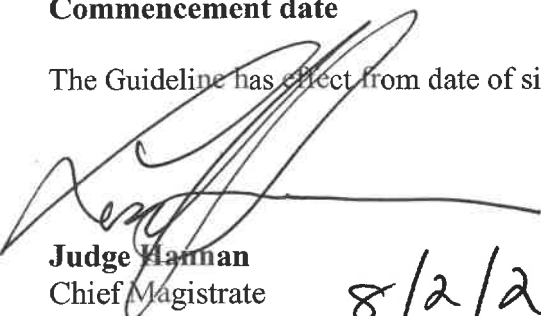
The Tribunal can consider funeral, burial and cremation expenses for overseas residents if the total costs remains within this Guideline.

The Tribunal 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 date of signature.


Judge Hamman
Chief Magistrate

8/2/21