



TOBIN BROTHERS FUNERALS
Celebrating Lives SINCE 1934



Funerals for an Infant or Child

This brochure aims to assist and offer support for families planning a child's funeral.

FUNERALS FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Tobin Brothers are honoured to support you and your family during this difficult time. Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your infant or child.

We hope that the information contained in this brochure will assist by answering many of the questions we are asked when making funeral arrangements for an infant or child.

This guide outlines the ways we will care for you and your infant or child in this moment and the options you have.

Our Funeral Advice Line staff are available to speak with you and assist with any questions this brochure may have raised, as well as other queries such as costs and Death Registration. They will be able to arrange an appointment for you to meet with one of our Funeral Planners at your convenience.

Phone 13 19 34 anytime, or you may also email any enquiries to: info@tobinbrothers.com.au.

Tobin Brothers also offer after care services to continue to support you on your journey of grief and loss. We invite you to join our supportive online community on social media, and we hold annual remembrance services such as our Christmas Remembrance events and Remembering our Angels Services which we invite you to attend if you feel it would be of benefit to you and to your family. We have some families return year after year to honour their loved ones.

Remembering Our Angels is an annual service for parents, families and friends who have experienced, or been touched by, the loss of a baby or child. These services allow everyone to gather in an atmosphere of candlelight and quiet music, providing an opportunity to remember, reflect and acknowledge the special place in our lives and hearts that our babies and children shall always hold.



James MacLeod
Managing Director

SHOULD THERE BE A FUNERAL SERVICE?

Funerals and Memorial Services are rituals which allow us to gather together to recognise and honour a life, and to offer support to those who are now bereaved.

Some parents see the loss of an infant as a deeply personal and intimate time; they request that a funeral or viewing include only themselves and possibly immediate family.

Some elect not to have a service, they request a non-attended burial or cremation and plan their own remembrances when the time is right.

Other parents choose to hold a more public service which includes wider family members, friends and colleagues.

No option is “right” or “wrong”. The “right” option is the one that feels right and meets the family’s individual needs and beliefs.

WHERE CAN A SERVICE BE HELD?

Families are welcome to use any of Tobin Brothers’ Chapels across Melbourne or in Echuca. Our facilities include smaller rooms which can be used when a more intimate service is planned. A Service may also be held in the family home, at the Graveside, Crematorium Chapel, Church, or other venues of significance to the family.

WHO WILL LEAD A SERVICE?

Families who have a religious faith will often invite their Clergy or Priest to lead the service.

Some families choose to have us engage an empathetic and professional Civil Celebrant.

Some families prefer not to designate a person to lead the service. They gather and share silence, music, readings and poetry that hold special meaning for them.

WHEN DOES THE FUNERAL HAVE TO HAPPEN?

Our advice is always to take time. Take time to consider and plan. There is no urgency.

BURIAL OR CREMATION?

An important decision is the choice between burial and cremation. Some considerations are below:

Burial

- Many Cemeteries have a ‘Children’s Area’. This is a special area of the Cemetery, where graves are often adorned with mementos, balloons, pinwheels and flowers.
- A family may already own a grave and find it comforting to inter the infant with another relative.
- Some parents choose to purchase a new adult grave with the thought that one day they will be able to be interred with their child.

Cremation

Cremation discussions should include considerations for the Cremated Remains. Some suggestions are:

- Placing the Cremated Remains in a specially chosen container which will be kept.
- Memorialisation at a Cemetery.
- Scattering the Cremated Remains in a significant place.
- Placing the Cremated Remains in the garden under a specially planted (potted) tree.

COFFIN/CASKET

Infant or Child Coffins and Caskets are usually white, pink or blue. They may be personalised by choosing different colours, adding hand written messages, hand prints, or other decorations such as stickers or decals.

A lacquered coffin is included in our Professional Service Fee for all children under the age of 15.



A coffin is shaped, wide at the shoulder and narrow at the foot end.



A casket, which is rectangular with a hinged lid, may be selected at extra cost.

KEEPSAKES

Gathering keepsakes for a 'memory box' or similar may include hand and foot prints, pressed flowers, cards and messages of support, locks of hair, hospital name-bands, photographs and a copy of the coffin/casket engraved name plate.

TREASURES

Special mementos may be placed in the coffin or casket to always remain. These may include photographs, poetry, letters, special toys or blankets - whatever is meaningful to the parents and family.

MEMORIAL BOOKS

Memorial Books help to celebrate the love of friends and family by prompting guests to share their memories and offer condolences and support.



CLOTHING

Many parents provide clothing or swaddling for their child. We are able to provide a range of hand made garments, in a variety of very small sizes, at no cost, if preferred.

VIEWING

Time spent viewing, cuddling or dressing the infant or child is treasured. We will do all that we can to facilitate this, either in our Chapels or at the family home. We are guided by the advice of our professionally qualified mortuary staff, who ensure that any concerns are fully explained and discussed with the parents. Final decisions about a viewing always remain with the parents.

OTHER DECISIONS AND OPTIONS DISCUSSED WHEN PLANNING A SERVICE INCLUDE:

- Floral tributes
- Newspaper notices
- Music
- Butterfly or dove release
- 'Celebrated Moments Audiovisual Presentation' (photographs set to a specially chosen piece of music)
- Print items such as an Order of Service, Remembrance Cards or Thank You Cards

FURTHER SUPPORT

BEREAVEMENT AND GRIEF SUPPORT SERVICES

SANDS : Miscarriage, Stillbirth And Newborn Death Support – www.sands.org.au

Sids and Kids – www.sidsandkids.org

The Compassionate Friends Victoria – www.compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au

Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement – www.grief.org.au | 1300 664 786

Sid and Kids Victoria – 1800 240 400

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Griefline – (03) 9935 7400

Mensline – 1300 78 99 78

Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800

Reach Out – www.reachout.com.au (for adolescents)

Gather My Crew – www.gathermycrew.org.au

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

General Practitioner

Grief Counselling

Art Therapy

Traditional Chinese Medicine

Hypnotherapy

Emotional Freedom

Kinesiology E.M.D.R.

Mindfulness Meditation

Yoga



INCORPORATING HERBERT KING FUNERALS, HOWARD SQUIRES FUNERALS, JAMES FERRIS FUNERALS

For 24 Hour Service & Enquiries please telephone
our Funeral Advice Line: **13 19 34**

www.tobinbrothers.com.au