

## WHEN DOES THE FUNERAL HAVE TO HAPPEN?

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

## *Further Information and Support:*

**For Service and Enquiries please telephone our Funeral Advice Line: (03) 9373 7000**

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.

**You may also email any Enquiries to:**  
info@tobinbrothers.com.au

## HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Further information about Funeral Personalisation Options and costs can be viewed on our website:  
**www.tobinbrothers.com.au**

**SANDS** : *Miscarriage, Stillbirth And Newborn Death Support* [www.sands.org.au](http://www.sands.org.au)

**Sids and Kids:** [www.sidsandkids.org](http://www.sidsandkids.org)

**The Compassionate Friends Victoria:**  
[www.compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au](http://www.compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au)

**Our free MemoryMaker App is available to download for:**

### **iOS devices**

[itunes.apple.com/au/app/tobin-brothers-memory-maker/id578902158?mt=](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/tobin-brothers-memory-maker/id578902158?mt=8)

### **Android devices**

[play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thinktanksocial\\_tobin\\_memory](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thinktanksocial_tobin_memory)



**TOBIN BROTHERS**  
FUNERALS  
*Celebrating Lives*  
FOR OVER 80 YEARS

*Frances Tobin*  
FUNERALS BY WOMEN

**Abbey**  
FUNERALS

**Herbert King**  
FUNERALS



**TOBIN BROTHERS**  
FUNERALS  
*Celebrating Lives*  
FOR OVER 80 YEARS



For 24 Hour Service and Enquiries  
please telephone our Funeral Advice Line: **(03) 9373 7000**

This brochure can be downloaded as a PDF from  
**www.tobinbrothers.com.au**  
**www.tobinbrothers.com.au/blog**

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*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:*

A funeral is a ritual which allows us to gather together to recognise the death of someone who is loved and 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 parents elect not to have a service, they request a non-attended burial or cremation and plan their own remembrances when the time is right.
- Some 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’ 22 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 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.

### **WHAT OTHER DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE TO PLAN AN INFANT OR CHILD’S FUNERAL?**

An important decision is the choice between burial and cremation:

#### **Burial**

- Many Cemeteries have a “Children’s Area”. This is a special area of the Cemetery, where graves are often adorned with memories, 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.

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#### **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.

#### **Keepsakes**

Gathering keepsakes for a “memory box” 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/casket to always remain. These may include photographs, poetry, letters, special toys or blankets - whatever is meaningful to the parents and family.

#### **Coffin/Casket**

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.

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.

#### **Other decisions and options discussed when planning a service include:**

- Floral tributes
- Newspaper notices
- Music
- Balloon or dove release
- “Celebrated Moments DVD” (30 photographs set to a specially chosen piece of music)
- Print items such as an Order of Service, Remembrance or Thank You Cards
- Refreshments
- Funeral Vehicles
- Donations