



## *Vale Ceremonies*

P.O Box 636 McLaren Vale S.A. 5171

(24/7) - 0409 394 399 (fx) - (08) 8323 8245

email – [admin@valeceremonies.com.au](mailto:admin@valeceremonies.com.au) www – [www.valeceremoines.com.au](http://www.valeceremoines.com.au)

### **Helping Hand List**

I know that at this time the things that are being asked of you are almost impossible to deal with. This information sheet is designed to help make things a little easier.

#### **Some Questions you should consider:**

- a.....Did the deceased want Burial or Cremation?
- b.....Did the deceased leave any wish or request as to what sort of service or ceremony they wanted?
- c.....Were they religious or did they have any kind of belief?
- d.....Would a religious service be right for them or comfort you?
- e.....Do you think that a non religious (Secular)ceremony would be the right course to take?
- f.....Would a ceremony with a mostly non religious content but perhaps with a prayer or a hymn included be the right thing?

#### **Some things to remember:**

1. Please take your time in making up your mind, also, involve other family members or friends.
2. Remember that you do not have to go to the funeral director in the area where your loved one passed away especially if you have no ties in that area anymore (apart from registering the death and other formal duties). Arranging the funeral service from where you live with a local funeral director may be a lot easier for you especially if you wish to view your loved one frequently in the chapel of rest.
3. If the deceased did pass away a long distance away then there may be extra charges from the funeral director to cover these costs to move the deceased to your local area, so check on the costs/charges first before you commit yourself.



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### **Some Ceremonial Options You May Wish to Consider**

**Option 1.** - You can conduct the ceremony yourself, perhaps with the help of other family members and friends but remember that your own feelings of grief and emotion may takeover on the day.

**Option 2.** - You plan to do it yourself, but have an experienced Officiant standing by to ensure that all goes well.

**Option 3.** - Secular Ceremony with experienced Officiant.

**Option 4.** - A Religious Service.

**Option 5.** - A Personal Ceremony that includes a little of everything or whatever you think is right - perhaps mostly non religious but including a prayer, hymn or a religious reading.

**Option 6.** - A combination ceremony - A secular Officiant together with a Religious Representative sharing the duties. The secular Officiant would perform the non religious introduction and poems and the Religious Representative performs the prayers and committal. It was a very warm and dignified ceremony and a family who are split in their beliefs can be very satisfied with this option. It was a ceremony that pleases everybody. It can be quite expensive however.

**Option 7.** - A Memorial Service held in a place of significance for your family and/or the deceased. This could be a favored picnic spot, the beach, the local footy oval or bowls club - just about anywhere. This is a service of celebration of the deceased's life in a life setting. It can have little or nothing to do with the interment. That can happen privately.

**Option 8.** - Is to have no service/ceremony at all, but to sit in the Chapel for a few moments and listen to some music and then the Funeral Director or Chapel Attendant will close the Curtains around the Coffin or Casket