



Funeral Benefit

A **Funeral Benefit** is a one-off payment made by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to assist toward the funeral costs of veterans and, in some cases, their dependants.

A Funeral Benefit payment comprises:

- up to **\$2000** towards the funeral costs of an eligible veteran or dependant who died on or after 1 July 2007;
- up to **\$1000** towards the funeral costs of an eligible veteran or dependant who died on or before 30 June 2007;
- up to **\$572** towards the funeral costs of an eligible veteran who died on or before 30 June 2004.

Death of a veteran

A Funeral Benefit may be granted in respect of funeral expenses of an Australian veteran who, at the time of death, was:

- receiving a Special Rate (T&PI) Pension; or
- receiving an Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA); or
- an ex-prisoner of war; or
- receiving an increased rate of pension for a double amputation.

Where the veteran was in one of these categories, DVA will arrange payment of a Funeral Benefit direct to the estate of the deceased veteran. However, it may be necessary for a claim to be lodged, e.g. if the late veteran was an ex-prisoner of war and DVA was unaware of the veteran's service.

A Funeral Benefit may be granted to a person responsible for the funeral expenses in respect of:

- a veteran or former member of the forces:
 - who died in needy circumstances; or
 - whose treatment was provided under DVA health care arrangements through the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) and who died:
 - in an institution; or
 - travelling to or from an institution; or
 - after discharge from an institution in which the veteran was being treated for a terminal illness; or
 - while being treated for a terminal illness at home;
- OR
- a veteran or former member of the forces who served before **1 July 2004** and whose death was war-caused or defence-caused.

An institution includes: a hospital, a nursing home or hostel, a medical centre, an outpatient clinic, or a rehabilitation or training establishment.

Transportation of body costs

Where a Funeral Benefit for a deceased veteran is payable and a charge was made by the funeral director expressly for transporting the body of the deceased veteran from the place where the veteran died to the place where the veteran ordinarily resided immediately before the veteran died, a sum equal to a reasonable charge for transporting the body of the veteran may be paid. Eligibility for this additional payment is dependent on:

- the veteran's death being at a place other than his or her ordinary place of residence; and
- the veteran being absent from his or her ordinary place of residence for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment and that treatment was approved by the Repatriation Commission or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission; and
- a charge for transporting the body being expressly made.

The additional payment for charges for transporting the veteran's body does not apply to a charge for transporting the body within the metropolitan area or outside Australia.

Death of a dependant

A Funeral Benefit may also be payable in respect of the funeral of a dependant (War Widow/Widower), wholly dependent partner, child under 16 or full-time student under 25 of a deceased member where the dependant died in severe financial need.

British or allied veteran

A Funeral Benefit is not available in respect of the death of a British or allied veteran.

For a Funeral Benefit to be payable, this application must be lodged within 12 months of the death or within 12 months from the date death was determined to be war-caused. The addresses are on the back of this page.

The personal information you provide on this form will be used to determine your eligibility for a Funeral Benefit. The *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* requires that an application be made on this form, approved by the Repatriation Commission. Some of the information will be disclosed to the Department of Finance and Administration in order for any reimbursement to be processed.

For information, please call the Department of Veterans' Affairs (from anywhere in Australia) on: **133 254**

Callers from regional Australia can call: **1800 555 254**

To contact your local Veterans' Affairs Network (VAN) Office, please call: **1300 55 1918**

If you wish to call DVA in another State, please call: **1300 13 1945**

State	Address	Postal address
New South Wales	Centennial Plaza Tower B 280 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2001	GPO Box 3994 Sydney NSW 1141
Victoria	300 La Trobe Street Melbourne VIC 3000	GPO Box 87 Melbourne VIC 3001
Queensland	Bank of Queensland Centre 259 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000	GPO Box 651 Brisbane QLD 4001
South Australia	Blackburn House 199 Grenfell Street Adelaide SA 5000	GPO Box 1652 Adelaide SA 5001
Western Australia	AMP Building 140 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000	GPO Box F352 Perth WA 6001
Tasmania	21 Kirksway Place Cnr Gladstone Street Hobart TAS 7001	GPO Box 481 Hobart TAS 7001
Northern Territory	Ground Floor Civic Plaza Building 2 Chung Wah Terrace Palmerston NT 0831	GPO Box 3374 Palmerston NT 0831
Australian Capital Territory	Cnr Moore & Rudd Streets Canberra ACT 2600	GPO Box 802 Canberra ACT 2601
Townsville	150 Walker Street Townsville QLD 4810	PO Box 2050 Townsville QLD 4810

SECTION A**Details of the deceased**

Please answer ALL questions and write in BLOCK letters.

1 Surname**2 Given name(s)****3 Home address**

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

POSTCODE

4 DVA File No. (if known)**5 Service No.** (if File No. not known)**6 Deceased served in:**
(please tick box)Army Navy RAAF **7 Date of birth****8 Date of death****9 Cause of death**

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

10 Place of deathAt home In hospital/nursing
home/other medical
facility

▶ Name

Address

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

POSTCODE

Other ▶ Provide details

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

SECTION B**Details of the person claiming the Funeral Benefit****11 Surname****12 Given name(s)****13 Address**

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

POSTCODE

14 Phone numbers

Work

Home

15 Your relationship to the deceased**16 Who will the Funeral Benefit be paid to?**

If you are the applicant claiming the Funeral Benefit but did not pay the account or do not have a receipt to verify that you paid the account, the benefit will be sent to you by cheque made out to the estate of the deceased veteran.

Funeral director nominated
in question **17**Applicant/estate ► Paid by cheque Direct credit ► Provide bank details

Bank/financial institution name

BSB number

Account number

SECTION C**Funeral details****17 Name of the funeral director****18 Address**

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

POSTCODE

19 Was the funeral pre-paid?

A pre-paid funeral is where, before the date of death:

- a contract existed between the deceased and the funeral director; and
- the full cost of the contracted funeral had been pre-paid.

No Yes ► What is the pre-paid funeral amount?\$ **20 Were any of the expenses of the funeral met, by a funeral or other organisation fund (not a pre-paid funeral)?**No Yes ► Name of funeral or other organisation fund

Amount paid by funeral or other organisation fund (include GST)

\$ **21 Total amount of funeral costs you are liable to pay (include GST)**\$

► Has the account been paid?

No ►

Please attach the account.

Yes ►

Please attach the receipt.

22 Was a separate charge made for transporting the deceased?No Yes ► Amount\$ 

Please attach the receipt/account.

If this claim is for the funeral of:

- **a veteran with dependants** please complete **PART 1**
- **a veteran with no dependants** please complete **PART 2**
- **the dependant of a veteran** please complete **PART 2**

A dependant is a war widow/widower, a child under the age of 16, or a child who is a full time student under the age of 25.

PART 1**Funeral of a veteran with dependants****22 Did the deceased die in needy circumstances?**

Where the veteran leaves a dependant, needy circumstances are when the assets of the estate are less than \$5,000 after liabilities including funeral costs have been deducted.

No ▶ Go to **SECTION E**

Yes ▶ Please give details as at the date of death

TOTAL value of all accounts at banks, building societies, credit unions (show only half if these are joint accounts)	\$	<input type="text"/>
Real estate (do not include the family home)	\$	<input type="text"/>
Other property (do not include the family car)	\$	<input type="text"/>
Shares	\$	<input type="text"/>
Insurance	\$	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL amount of other assets (before funeral and other expenses are deducted)	\$	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL amount of liabilities (including funeral costs)	\$	<input type="text"/>

▶ Go to **SECTION E**

PART 2**Funeral of a veteran with no dependants or funeral of the dependant of a veteran****23 Did the deceased die in needy circumstances?**

Where the veteran does **not** leave a dependant or where the funeral is for a dependant, needy circumstances are when the assets of the estate are not sufficient to meet all liabilities, including funeral expenses.

No ▶ Go to **SECTION E**

Yes ▶ Please give details as at the date of death

TOTAL value of all accounts at banks, building societies, credit unions	\$	<input type="text"/>
Real estate (including the family home)	\$	<input type="text"/>
Other property (including the family car)	\$	<input type="text"/>
Shares	\$	<input type="text"/>
Insurance	\$	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL amount of other assets (before funeral and other expenses are deducted)	\$	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL amount of liabilities (including funeral costs)	\$	<input type="text"/>

▶ Go to **SECTION E**

If the person claiming Funeral Benefit is unable to sign this form:

- sign the form on their behalf;
- attach an authority for you to act on their behalf, or a medical certificate showing that the person is unable to claim on their own behalf;
- attach a note showing your name, address, phone numbers and your relationship to the person claiming Funeral Benefit.

I wish to apply for assistance towards funeral expenses that I have incurred.
 I have attached all relevant accounts and receipts.
 The information I have provided is complete and correct.
 I am aware that making false or misleading statements is a serious offence.
 If any of the details I give on this form change, I must notify DVA within 21 days.

YOUR SIGNATURE

Date

/ /

REMINDER

Have you remembered to attach the accounts and/or receipts?

Please return this application and any related papers to your nearest DVA office (*addresses are on page 2*) within 12 months:

- **of the death; or**
- **from the date death was determined to be war-caused.**

OFFICE USE ONLY

Recommendation

\$

▶ Approved

Declined

Signature of delegate

Date

/ /