



Financial Assistance

Funeral Benefits

Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the funeral benefit available to Australian veterans and members of the Australian Defence Force under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA).

MRCA Funeral Assistance

For information on Funeral Assistance available in respect of members who served on or after 1 July 2004 and who are eligible to claim under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA), please see *Fact Sheet MRC 17: Funeral Assistance*.

What is a funeral benefit?

A funeral benefit is a one off payment (up to \$2,000) made by DVA towards the funeral costs of an eligible veteran or dependant.

What is a funeral benefit for?

A funeral benefit is intended to help cover expenses incurred in respect of:

- the funeral of a deceased eligible veteran;
- the funeral of the deceased eligible dependant of a deceased veteran in specific circumstances; *and*
- the cost of transporting the veteran's body from the place of death to the normal place of residence.

Transportation costs apply to veterans only, not to their dependants.

How do you apply for a funeral benefit

An application from the estate of a deceased veteran for funeral benefit must be made on the funeral benefit form within 12 months of the veteran's death. In cases where a veteran's death is accepted as war-caused, the claim must be made within 12 months of the date of this acceptance.

Funeral benefit forms are available from your nearest DVA office or the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au. You can lodge a form by post or at a DVA office.

Funeral Benefits, *continued*

Who is eligible for a funeral benefit?

Once an application form has been completed, a funeral benefit will be paid automatically to the estate of a deceased veteran who:

- was receiving one of the following payments at the time of their death:
 - special (T&PI) rate disability pension;
 - extreme disablement adjustment (EDA);
 - disability pension plus an allowance as a multiple amputee; *or*
- was a prisoner of war.

A funeral benefit may also be payable 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 on or before **30 June 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.

Dependant's funeral benefit

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

Funeral Benefits, *continued*

Dependant's funeral benefit (*continued*)

Application must be made on the funeral benefit form, within 12 months of the dependant's death. Funeral benefit forms are available from your nearest DVA office or the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au. You can lodge a form by post or at a DVA office.

Oral advice

While we make every effort to ensure that you are given accurate information, it is important that you seek written confirmation of oral information or advice before making any major decisions based on that information.

We continually strive to improve the level of service you receive and make this request as an added safeguard for you.

Other fact sheets

Other fact sheets related to this topic include:

- *Bereavement Payments: BR 02*
- *Your Will: BR 03*
- *What does the Office of Australian War Graves Do?: WG 01*
- *Funeral Assistance: MRC 17*

More Information

If you need more information about this topic, contact DVA, or visit our website at www.dva.gov.au.

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on:

133 254, or
1800 555 254, if you are outside a major city.

Use a normal, landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

All DVA factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.