



FUNERAL CELEBRANCY
COURSE INFORMATION

THE COURSE



The nationally approved courses that are included in this training are:

CHCCEL008 **Plan, present and evaluate funeral and memorial ceremonies**

SIFXIND002 **Work effectively in the funeral services industry**

CHCCCS017 **Provide loss and grief support**

They are aimed at preparing a celebrant to design and perform a funeral ceremony with the needs of the client family in mind, and in a professional and respectful manner.

Whilst the funeral celebrant training is not designated by a government department as being compulsory to enter the profession of funeral celebrancy, there has been a growing trend over the last few years of Funeral Directors selecting graduates of this course.

The first two units of study are taken from the Cert IV in Funeral Services, and the third one from a Cert IV in either Community Services Work, Disability or Aged Care.

For people who may be studying or considering the Cert IV in Celebrancy these are three of the electives from that qualification. Australian Celebrations Training has also the Cert IV in Celebrancy qualification available.

The unit *SIFFFNL005 Arrange Funerals* is an extra elective that is stated in the Cert IV in Celebrancy. We have not included that unit of study in this course as it is not suitable for funeral celebrants. It is aimed at Funeral Directors arranging funerals (e.g. funeral arrangements, embalming, viewing, burial and cremation, coffin or casket arrangements).

FUNERALS IN AUSTRALIA

As reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics approximately 70% of Australian funeral services are performed by civil funeral celebrants. Originally in Australia most people followed a Christian derived faith, however Australia is a country that has moved steadily towards non-religious and secular views on funerals. Many people still have spiritual views but have also moved away from church attendance.

As a result, there have been dynamic changes in funeral services. The outcome has been families' desire to move away from a church funeral to a celebrant service which places more emphasis on the unique personality and life of the deceased.

Over the last 5 to 10 years the death literacy movement has contributed highly to the normalizing of conversations around death. You may have heard of one of the following in your community:

End of Life consultants

End of Life planning

Groundswell Project

Death Doulas

Death Café

Death over Dinner

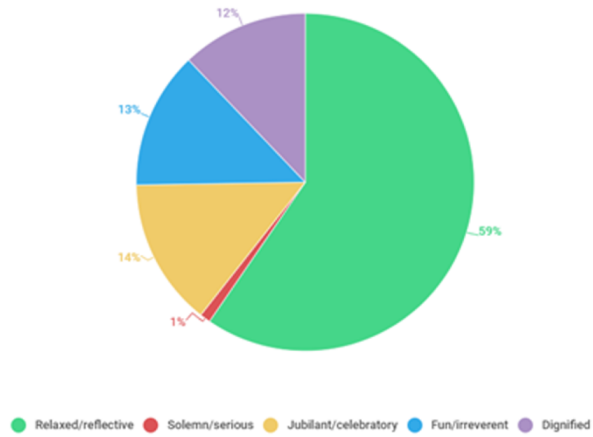
Certainly, the year 2020 has changed so much about the conversation about dying and planning and considering one's own death. And, how funerals are organized and celebrated. Here are just some of the trends:

FUNERAL TRENDS

- Green burials
- DIY funerals
- Cemeteries with QR codes and digital headstones
- Driverless hearse
- Eternal reefs in the oceans
- Cremation using fluids

As you can see from the following graph from www.finder.com.au that Australian's prefer a relaxed and highly personalized funeral service.

AUSTRALIAN'S PREFERENCE FOR FUNERAL TONE



Funerals in Australia: a statistical snapshot, McCrindle, 2014



Australia's ageing population

In 2014 the population was 23.6 million and 15% of the population were over 65.

2014

2044

In 2044 the population will be approximately 38.7 million and 20% of the population will be over 65, which makes 1 in 5 Australians 65+.

FUNERAL CELEBRANCY

This course has been written over a period of 17 years with experienced grief and bereavement counsellors, funeral directors, crematoria staff, and experienced funeral celebrants. The curriculum designers, funeral celebrants, funeral celebrant trainers, funeral directors and crematoria staff have extensive years of expertise in the field, some up to 25 years.

The skills and knowledge of company director, who designed the curriculum, Beth O'Brien, can be fully read over at her webpage <https://endoflifeplanning.com.au/beth-qualifications/>

Beth is a Certified Thanatologist, Grief and Bereavement Counsellor and Death Educator facilitator and has had extensive experience in the funeral celebrancy environment.

Australian Celebrations Training's Company Director, Beth O'Brien is an internationally certified funeral celebrant and brings expansive knowledge to this course, in very practical ways. Beth is the first Australian to receive this international certificate. In 2016 Beth completed her training as a Hospital Chaplain (Humanist) working mainly in the palliative care and infants' wards. Her work then evolved accompanying people who were terminally ill and supporting their family and friends in their home.

Included in the training team's expertise are also ceremonies such Mother's Day and Father's Day services, Christmas Services, Animal Companion Funerals, and Thanksgiving for Donation of bodies to medical faculties, memorial services for community grieving, Cancer Fund Relay for Life services. For more information on the diverse experience of our team you can read their profiles on our webpage at www.australiancelebrations.com.au

Following picture funeral celebrant students Brisbane 2020 – three of our trainers are in the picture Lillian, Beth, and Melissa.



Topics will include:

CLIENT
COMMUNICATION

- Funeral Interview design
- Deep listening skills
- Take accurate instructions
- Interpersonal skills and how to relate to people from diverse cultural backgrounds and belief systems.
- Liaising with family and friends
- Be aware of non-verbal communication
- Confidentiality

GRIEF, LOSS AND
BEREAVEMENT

- Grief awareness
- Recognise reactions to loss and grief
- Consider social, cultural, ethnic and spiritual differences
- Show empathy and sensitivity
Refer clients on for support if needed
- Understanding your own balance with grief

FUNERAL CEREMONY DESIGN

- Creating meaning
- Understanding the balance of mourning and celebrating
- storytelling
- Design of ceremony incorporating ritual and symbolism
- Eulogy preparation
- Working with poems, literature and music
- Order of ceremony
- Meaningful actions
- Working with speakers and special guests
- Reaffirming beliefs

CEREMONY TYPES

- Cremation
- Burial
- Ashes interment
- Memorials
- DIY funeral
- Green funerals
- Difficult services
- Contemporary Loss Theory
- Mourning and bereavement
- Grief Resources



CEREMONY DELIVERY

- Public presentation and effective public speaking
- Working with funeral staff and other professionals
- How does a crematorium work?
- Body language
- Empathetic manner
- Humour
- Working with other providers

rites of passage

- Understanding secular humanism
- Understanding people's personal spirituality
- Why is a funeral ceremony important?
- An anchoring point in life's journey
- Human need to make sense of the world
- Finding meaning in life

YOUR BUSINESS

- Ethical use of material and copying
- Time management and planning
- Professional dress standards
- Dignified manner
- Workplace health and safety
- Starting your business

YOUR SELF CARE

- Self-care for the celebrant
- Stress management
- Mindfulness
- De-briefing
- Burnout

MODES OF LEARNING

CLASSROOM

These courses are limited to 12 students to give people an opportunity to have all their questions answered and build a solid knowledge base for their professional lives as funeral celebrants. The course times are 9.00am to 4.30pm daily for 3 consecutive days. There is also home study to complete.

ONLINE

The online course has you studying the 3 units of competency completely online. The modules are designed so that you can download them and print some if you wish. You will be required to film various assessment items; you therefore need access to that medium. Many people use their smart phone for this purpose. The course is self-paced to suit your business and personal life.

CORRESPONDENCE – Traditional Correspondence

The correspondence course has you studying the 3 units of competency. You will receive a hard copy manual in the post. You will have access to a personal tutor. You will be required to film various assessment items; you therefore need access to that medium. Many people use their smart phone for this purpose. The course is self-paced to suit your business and personal life.

STUDENT MATERIAL AND ASSESSMENT

A word of advice

Working with families to design meaningful ceremonies is very rewarding. We have found over the years that some students of this course once they begin this career realise that they have some of their own personal un-resolved issues of grief. To be a successful funeral celebrant you would need to resolve those issues before continuing to be fair on yourself, your family, and your potential clients.

Student Resources

You will be required to purchase one e-book approximately \$15. The Student manual and resources a variety of funeral ceremonies, and template documents that will support your role as a funeral celebrant.

ASSESSMENT

Classroom

Role plays by the instructor will include taking the call from the Funeral Director, family interview, and a funeral ceremony. Each student will be given a case study family to write a ceremony for, and then will be required to perform that ceremony for assessment.

The classroom course also includes field trips escorted by the Trainer and may usually include a Funeral Home, a crematorium, a graveyard, or lawn cemetery.

Online and Correspondence

You will be required to video various assessment items; therefore, you will need to be able to have access to a video recorder or a smartphone.

ENROLMENT TIME FRAME

On enrolment a student has 12 months to complete the course. Online and correspondence students have a personal tutor to assist their studies, and classroom students have access to a personal tutor after the course to assist them in finalising any assessments.

On successful completion of all requirements students will be given a Statement of Attainment with the three nationally accredited units of competency.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification. It would be assumed you have completed year 10 at school with sound literacy and numeracy skills.

WHEN CAN YOU START?

The online and correspondence modes of study can be commenced at any time.

For Classroom learning please refer to our timetable.

ENROL

Enrolment Forms and Student Information Guide are available by contacting our office on (07) 3207 9515 or by downloading from our webpage www.australiancelebrations.com.au.

FEES

Online Learning	\$450
Traditional Correspondence (hard copy of training materials)	\$510
Classroom Learning	\$645

STUDENT INFORMATION POLICY

Our policy includes the following – enrolment procedures, language and literacy, support for students, refund policy, complaint mechanism, and equity for students. Before agreeing to enrol you will be asked to read this policy first. It is on our webpage at www.australiancelebrations.com.au or we can email to you.



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