



This factsheet is a guide as to what to do immediately after (and in the days after) the person you are caring for finishes up.



1. **Take your time** - There is no rush. Spend as much time as you want to with the person.
2. **Tell a health worker** - If you are at home, you will need to call your health worker, doctor or the palliative care service to let them know the person has finished up. A doctor needs to verify the person has finished up for the death certificate. Sometimes an ambulance or bush nursing service will be called if the doctor is unavailable. If you are in a hospital or aged care facility, let a staff member know that you think the person has finished up and they will take care of verifying the death.
3. **Wash and dress the body** - You may like to wash the body on your own, or ask for a health worker or family member to come and assist you.

4. **Inform family** - You may like to let certain people know that the person has finished up. You may also like to give this task to a family member to do for you.
5. **Organise any cultural rituals or traditions that are important to you and the person who has finished up.** Depending on your cultural practices, you may want to invite others in to pay their respects. You may wish to roll up a small hand towel and place it under the person's chin if their mouth is open and/or cover them up to maintain dignity. Flowers, reminders of country, or photos might be arranged close by. Opening a window or using air freshener can help keep the room fresh.
6. **Call the funeral company*** - The funeral company will come pick up the body and look after the body until the funeral. You can choose when they come. The funeral company will also help register the death and organise the death certificate.
7. **The funeral** - There needs to be a cremation or burial for the body, however a funeral service is optional. Discuss the options and be aware that there is a variation in cost.
8. **Death Certificate** - Once you have the death certificate you will need to send copies to all relevant services including banks, superannuation, services and utility companies etc.
9. **Contact the lawyer** involved in the person's Last Will and Testament to start the process to finalise the person's estate.
10. **Talk to your employer** to let them know what has happened and to find out if you are eligible for compassionate leave.
11. **Financial assistance** - Contact Centrelink to see if you are eligible for any financial assistance such as a bereavement payment. If you need financial assistance with the funeral, contact your state government.
12. **If you have any concerns**, please talk to someone who was involved in the person's care. The doctor, health worker, and funeral director should be able to guide you and answer any questions.

*You do not have to have a funeral company involved, however if you choose not to have one involved then you need to adhere to the legalities for your state relating to registering the death and keeping and disposing of the body.



Here for You (May 2022) by
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