

# ELIMINATING the Stress

YOUR ONE-STOP SOLUTION TO ELIMINATE BILLS AND LEAVE ONLY BRILLIANT MEMORIES OF YOURSELF FOR YOUR LOVED ONES...

**M**emorial Ceremonies are a topic most people tend to avoid, and planning for one can seem downright uncomfortable. It might feel like we are dwelling on the negative. But in fact, it can be a very considerate choice. Your taking care of Memorial Ceremony arrangements and expenses ahead of time can be a real gift to those who will be grieving when you pass away. And it could save your family a substantial sum of money along the way. As an adult, it has always been prudent to set aside money to take care of any large unexpected expenses or illnesses. A Memorial Ceremony is no different. The key is to understand how a pre-paid plan for a Memorial Ceremony works.

## **WHAT IS A PRE-PAID MEMORIAL CEREMONY?**

It is just what it sounds like – a set of arrangements, as detailed as you desire, that have been paid for ahead of time (meaning either the money has already been paid or has been set aside for this purpose). There are different ways to do this, depending on your preferences and financial concerns. We believe that the best way is through a “trust account” through a Memorial Home.

## **WHAT IS A “TRUST ACCOUNT” THROUGH A MEMORIAL HOME?**

When a person passes away, his or her assets can be temporarily unavailable – even to a family member – until the estate is settled. Therefore, more and more people are buying a “pre-paid Memorial Ceremony Plan” through a specific Memorial Home, purchasing it either with a lump sum or payments over 24 months. In many ways, this streamlines and simplifies the whole process. Further, the funds are put into a trust account which is controlled by the state of New South Wales and invested in a capital program. The funds are 100% secure.

However, before doing so, there are always questions the careful consumer needs to ask, such as:



- Are the payments themselves reasonable?
  - How long does the policy take to pay off?
  - What happens if the person passes away before the policy has been paid off?
  - What happens if the Memorial Home should close or change ownership?
  - What are the consumer protections in New South Wales?
  - What exactly does the money you pay cover?
  - What happens if you move away?
  - What happens if costs rise before you pass away?
  - What happens to the interest that's earned on the payments you make?
  - Can you cancel the contract and have your money refunded if you change your mind?
- TR Brownjohn Memorial Home can answer all your questions and concerns and help you to make decisions in a relaxed and intelligent manner.

## **BUT ABOVE ALL, FAMILY COMMUNICATION IS CRITICAL**

A person may plan and pre-pay for his or her own Memorial Ceremony, but fail to inform family members. Sometimes the details are in the person's will, but the will is often not read until after the Memorial Ceremony. Similarly, a person might keep the contract in a safety deposit box, but grieving family members may not go through that box right away. In any event, despite your attempt to help your

loved ones go through a tough time, they will be making arrangements and paying for them without knowledge of your planning. Regardless of how you choose to pre-pay for a Memorial Ceremony, be sure your family members know what arrangements have been made and have copies of important papers.

Once you have retired, paid off the mortgage, and the children have left home, what you need is a way to pay for any expenses you leave behind when you pass. With no way to pay for the expenses of a Memorial Ceremony, families often experience a financial burden during a time of intense grief.

Many of us have experienced the death of a loved one and remember how stressful it was to juggle our grief, the Memorial Ceremony planning, and the financial obligations. The thought of our spouse or children going through the same experience is unbearable.

What can we do to protect our families from this financial burden? How can we make sure they aren't left with a financial burden when we pass?

The first step in purchasing a pre-paid Memorial Ceremony would be to set up an appointment with the pre-eminent Memorial Home in the Blue Mountains, The TR Brownjohn Memorial Home which has three offices to serve you. As Thomas Brownjohn says,....It's time we had a talk. He is there 24/7 at (02) 4782 2613.