



FUNERAL PLANNING

A GUIDE TO FUNERAL BONDS





THE BENEFITS OF A FUNERALPLAN BOND



Choose your investment option

The FuneralPlan Bond has the specific purpose of meeting your future funeral expenses. You can choose the Capital Guaranteed investment option, which means your contributions and allocated bonuses are always secure. Or you can choose the Conservative or Moderate investments if you want to increase the value of your policy through a combination of income and capital growth.



Flexible payment options

You can open an account with as little as \$100 and set up your own regular instalment plans and top up with a minimum of \$50 at any time. You also have the freedom to stop paying instalments at any time without penalty if your circumstances change. Annual bonuses are also exempt from personal income tax.



Freedom of choice

You have the freedom to nominate your own funeral director and also the type of service you would like.



Tax benefits

Your FuneralPlan Bond will not affect your means tested pension so you can invest up to the current Government threshold. There is no limit to your investment if the means test is not applicable to your personal circumstances.



PURCHASING A FUNERAL BOND WITH FUNERAL PLAN MANAGEMENT IS EASY

1. Read the FuneralPlan Bond Disclosure Document
2. Complete the application form
3. Send payment to Funeral Plan Management by direct debit, BPAY® or cheque

"You can open an account with as little as \$100 and set up your own regular instalment plans"

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



GENERAL

Why is a funeral important?

A funeral is the first step in the mourning process. Mourning helps people heal, and a funeral is a special time and place to support one another in grief at a time of loss. It is an opportunity for family and friends to pay their last respects.

Who is legally responsible for arranging a funeral?

Legal responsibility rests with the executor appointed under the Will of the deceased. You should make sure your executor is familiar with, and agreeable to carrying out your wishes, and is aware of the details of your pre-paid funeral plan contract.

What if there is no Will?

If a person dies without a valid Will, usually the closest next of kin will have the right to apply to act as administrator of the estate and complete the funeral arrangements.

What happens when someone dies at home?

The first call should be to a doctor. If the person has been treated by that doctor and the doctor is able to identify the cause of death, he or she will normally be able to issue a Death Certificate or Medical Examiner's Certificate.

The next call should be to the funeral director, who will arrange to transfer the deceased to the mortuary and organise registration of death. Funeral directors are available 24/7.

What happens when someone dies in hospital?

The attending doctor will generally be able to sign a Death Certificate or Medical Examiner's Certificate. The funeral director will arrange the transport of the deceased, registration of the death and all other funeral arrangements.

What happens when someone dies interstate or overseas?

The funeral director should be notified immediately and will arrange transport of the deceased and attend to any statutory or customs requirements. In these circumstances there is usually an additional fee for the transportation of the deceased. For a small premium however, you can insure against these additional costs (if you die whilst traveling interstate or more than 70 kms from your normal place of residence, within Australia).

Please note - In accordance with the deferred sales model for add-on insurance, any applications to invest in the Travel Protection Plan must occur after the completion of the deferral period (please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement for further details).

Ask your funeral director about travel protection insurance.

What is the role of the Coroner's Department?

If a hospital, doctor or other individual advises the Coroner's Department of a death, the Department contacts the police. The police arrange the transport of the deceased to the Coroner's Court. The police then prepare a report for the Coroner. The Coroner seeks to establish the cause of death, either by contacting the deceased's doctor, or by requesting an autopsy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



ABOUT FUNERAL BONDS

Why choose a funeral plan?

Funeral Plans make sound financial and emotional sense. Not only can they protect your loved ones from unnecessary stress at a difficult time, they also ensure that your own wishes are carried out.

How much money can I invest in a funeral bond?

You can invest any amount into your funeral bond. If you receive Centrelink benefits, and wish this to be exempt from both assets test and deeming provisions of the income test, you cannot exceed the government threshold. If you do not receive benefits, this threshold does not apply.

Who do I go to if I am interested in setting up a funeral bond?

Funeral Plan Management can assist you in setting up a funeral bond. Visit fpmanagement.com.au or call us on 1800 804 731.

Can I turn my funeral bond into a pre-paid funeral plan?

You can use your funeral bond in conjunction with a pre-paid funeral plan. Your funeral bond can be transferred to a funeral director under contract, and you can pre-plan your funeral under this arrangement.

What if I change residence?

With a funeral bond, you can meet the cost of your funeral anywhere in the world.

Are my contributions tax deductible?

No, contributions may not be claimed as a tax deduction.

Can I cancel the bond?

Cancellation of a Funeral Bond can only occur during the cooling off period, which may vary between states of Australia and fees could apply.

Money invested in a Funeral Bond after the cooling off period cannot be withdrawn prior to death.

Who holds my money, is it safe?

Your investment in the FuneralPlan Bond is managed by Lifeplan Australia Friendly Society. If you choose the Capital Guaranteed investment option, Lifeplan guarantees to pay your net contributions and declared bonuses, excluding any tax benefit, at the time the benefit is due. If you choose the Conservative or Moderate investment options, the returns may vary significantly from year to year and the benefit paid may be more or less than the contributions made.

Are there any fees?

There are no entry or exit fees charged by Funeral Plan Management when you invest in a Funeral Bond.

However, an entry fee may be applicable if your funeral director, financial adviser or agent recommends the Funeral Bond to you.

There is also an ongoing management fee deducted from the Fund's investment income before any bonuses are declared. This fee covers administration, investment management, expense recovery and other fees charged to the Fund.



Funeral Plan Management (FPM) has assisted over 170,000 Australians fund and pay for their funerals since 1984. FPM is part of Australian Unity Group - a health, wealth and living organisation providing products and services designed to help people thrive.

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