

NEW TOOLS HELP AUSTRALIANS TAKE CONTROL OF END-OF-LIFE WISHES

From mushroom coffins and shrouded cremations to celebrations of life, Australians are changing the way they say goodbye.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, August 6, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Australian funeral is quietly changing.

From mushroom coffins and shrouded cremations to celebrations of life and deeply personalised memorials, more Australians are rethinking how they want to be remembered and having conversations that previous generations often avoided.

To mark Dying to Know Day, the national awareness day encouraging Australians to have open conversations about death and end-of-life planning, Metropolitan Memorial Parks (MMP) has launched two new resources designed to help people turn those conversations into action: a digital Memorial Planner and a My Wishes booklet.



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The resources respond to a growing desire for greater choice, transparency and personalisation when it comes to end-of-life planning, helping people explore memorial options, document their wishes and start meaningful conversations with loved ones before those decisions need to be made.

Metropolitan Memorial Parks CEO Denise Ora said Australians are becoming more willing to talk about death, as too many families are still left making important decisions without knowing what

their loved one would have wanted.

"Death touches every family, yet it's still one of the conversations many of us avoid," Ora said.

"One of the greatest gifts we can leave the people we love is clarity. Sharing our end-of-life wishes while we can, gives our families confidence that they're making the decisions we would have wanted, rather than being left to guess during an incredibly difficult time.



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"Whether someone wants a traditional funeral, a celebration of life or something entirely unique, documenting those wishes isn't about planning for death. It's about caring for the people you'll leave behind."

MMP Executive Director Customer Experience & Engagement Carla Armanet said Australians were increasingly looking for farewells that reflected the lives people had lived.

"The options available today are broader than ever, but the biggest change is that more Australians are feeling comfortable having these conversations while there's still time.

"We're seeing a real shift in the questions people are asking. Families are exploring more personalised memorials, showing greater interest in sustainable options and, importantly, taking the time to discuss and document their wishes before they're needed."

The new Memorial Planner is an interactive digital tool that allows people to browse and compare memorialisation options across Metropolitan Memorial Parks' eight memorial parks, bringing together memorial types, locations and transparent pricing in one place so families can make informed decisions at their own pace.

The new My Wishes booklet helps people record everything from end-of-life care preferences and organ donation through to funeral arrangements, personalised playlists, readings, flowers, charitable donations, digital legacy and personal messages for loved ones. While not a legal document, it is designed to make difficult conversations easier and ensure personal wishes are clearly understood.

Continuing the conversations sparked by Dying to Know Day, MMP will host Let's Talk About Death and Dying on Wednesday 26 August, a special public panel discussion exploring end-of-life choices, planning ahead and the importance of open and meaningful conversations.

The panel will bring together an interfaith minister and death doula, funeral professionals and end-of-life experts to discuss the changing way Australians are approaching death and memorialisation, and why having these conversations before they're needed can be one of the greatest gifts we leave our loved ones.

The Memorial Planner and My Wishes booklet are available free at metropolitanmemorialparks.com.au.

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