

For immediate release
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Debt at a funeral: The most expensive Australian city to die

- ➔ Perth is officially Australia's most expensive city to hold a funeral at \$7,800 on average.
- ➔ 60% of Australian adults leave funeral costs to their relatives, according to finder.com.au research.
- ➔ finder.com.au encourages Aussies to consider a prepaid funeral plan or insurance to cover costs.

19 July 2017, Sydney, Australia – Perth has topped the list of Australia's most expensive city to die in, according to an analysis from finder.com.au, the site that compares virtually everything.

The finder.com.au study analysed figures from Funeral Planner and found that the average funeral service in Perth costs \$7,764, the highest of any Australian city*.

At the other end of the spectrum was Canberra where finder.com.au found the average funeral service costs \$6,131. Sydney and Melbourne came second and third for funeral costs at \$7,621 and \$7,586 respectively.

This comes off the back of a finder.com.au survey from June this year that shows the majority of Australians aren't planning on paying for their own funeral before they die.

The study, which surveyed 2,005 adults, found that 60% of Australians – the equivalent of 11.2 million adults – either haven't thought about their funeral costs or are expecting relatives to foot the bill.

One in 10 (10%) suggested their own ideas for dodging costs, including not planning on dying, donating their bodies to research, and not having a funeral at all.

Bessie Hassan, Money Expert at finder.com.au said the research encourages Australians to start thinking about their funerals ahead of time.

"It's concerning that the vast majority of Aussies – older generations included – aren't considering the cost they may be leaving behind to family members when they pass away," she said.

"Although bleak, it's common for a funeral services to surpass the \$10,000 mark, and when

you include additions like candles, celebrant fees or a limousine, the cost could really impact whoever is left to foot the bill.

“In fact, one in five Australians don’t have enough money set aside to cover a \$500 setback, so if an unexpected death of a family member does arise it could cause significant financial stress.”

Cremation is slightly cheaper than a burial in Australia, with a national average of \$6,900 compared to an average burial cost of \$7,430.

Ms Hassan said that those concerned about leaving their family in debt should plan ahead and consider all options.

“Australians worried about the price of their service should [consider a funeral prepayment plan](#) or a capped funeral insurance policy.”

Most expensive city to die in:

#	City	Average funeral cost
1	Perth	\$7,764
2	Sydney	\$7,621
3	Melbourne	\$7,586
4	Brisbane	\$7,259
5	Adelaide	\$6,657
6	Hobart	\$6,508
7	Canberra	\$6,131

Source: finder.com.au,
funeralplanner.com



*Excluding Darwin.

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