



| NSW Department of Education

# Funeral Worker

Funeral workers prepare bodies for viewing and burial, arrange and conduct funerals, and perform other specialist funeral services.

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## Job title examples

- Funeral attendant / assistant
- Embalmer
- Pallbearer
- Undertaker

## What funeral workers do

- interview families and associates of the deceased to assist with funeral arrangements such as the selection of coffin, type of service and publication of death notices
- advise on funeral costs and welfare provisions
- collect bodies from mortuaries
- ensure death certificates have been issued, burial and cremation certificates processed and that other legal requirements are met
- prepare bodies for viewing and burial by washing, draining body fluids, applying padding and cosmetics, dress bodies and place them in coffins
- liaise with clergy and cemetery and crematorium staff
- coordinate the movement of coffins and funeral cars, arrange floral displays and collect attendance and tribute cards
- arrange the placement of coffins at funeral sites, and place and adjust floral displays and lighting
- keep records and accounts of transactions and services performed
- may arrange the construction of memorials and the disposal of ashes.

## Main employing industries

- Other services (e.g. funeral firms)

## Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

**Certificate III in Cemetery and Crematorium Operations** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Funeral Operations** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Certificate IV in Embalming** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Course fees:** You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

## Job prospects and pay

- There are around 1,887 funeral workers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to remain stable in NSW.

### Average weekly full-time earnings (before tax):

- Funeral workers: \$1,024
- All occupations: \$1,200

## Related jobs

- Other personal service worker (e.g. civil celebrant)
- Conference and event organiser



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit [education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides](https://education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides).

### Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, [joboutlook.gov.au](http://joboutlook.gov.au), based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014