

THE LAST HURRAH

Original Funerals for Unique People

What Happens When I Die – Chat Transcript

31ST October 2020 @ 12:00pm

- 12:03:18 From Stass (She/her): Hellllooooo, feel free to pop your questions in here :)
- 12:13:31 From Annie: Actively dying, physically dying, holistically dying, it's hard to know which one to use,
- 12:13:55 From Kimba @ The Last Hurrah: So true Annie x
- 12:14:34 From 50012946: Some pc services require a medical referral
- 12:15:53 From Kate: Hi Hayley, yes, I did leave that job fairly rapidly.
- 12:23:58 From Krista (she/her): Are the stretchers chilled?
- 12:25:13 From Annie: I'm curious about the training people receive for transferring bodies. I have been present with two unpleasant examples. They were rough and not respectful. The body was in bed and not large.
- 12:25:49 From MJ: who does the transfers from crime scenes or fatal accidents?
- 12:27:26 From Robert: the coroner has a contract service every few years, funeral home used to provide this service, now St Johns Ambulance provides these transfers
- 12:27:52 From MJ: thank you Robert.
- 12:35:25 From Candace P: Very cool. Thanks for sharing, Kirby!
- 12:35:55 From Robert: Hi Annie, yes you are correct there are a lot of cowboys/girls out there. Whilst the task is not difficult, there are many business and staff that should not be in the industry. There is no formal training in the funeral industry, excepting mortuary since embalming. Although in the 1980s we were instrumental in bringing Infection Control taring, most people will not do it
- 12:35:56 From MJ: who gets final say on viewing their person? Family or coroner?
- 12:36:32 From dann: Thanks Kirby, that was very interesting. Are there support people for the family who is viewing/identifying the deceased?
- 12:36:33 From Annie: Thank you Robert, it is clear now for me

12:37:08 From Hayley: Thanks Kirby, do you process all ages at the same location?

12:37:19 From Krista (she/her): Good questions @danni

12:37:42 From 50012946: I am interested in how the panel manage their work life balance and how they cope with the kind of work they do

12:38:39 From Kirby: Hi MJ. This usually a decision made my mortuary and Coronial Admission and Enquiries management. If a body is decomposed or traumatised it is always suggested not to have a viewing. However if a family is insistent then we will always accommodate

12:38:57 From MJ: thanks Kirby

12:39:56 From Kirby: Hi Danni, yes there is support for the family and this is done by the Coronial Admissions and Enquires and there are support services at VIFM that are available to families.

12:40:05 From Anna: presumably suspicion of foul play would over ride a families wishes?

12:40:50 From Robert: Thanks Reed

12:40:54 From Kirby: Hi Anna, yes. In cases of suspicious deaths ie. homicides then yes the coroner over rules and requests an immediate autopsy.

12:40:55 From Candace: For Reed: In what ways are death classification(s) data used?

12:40:56 From Hayley: Reed - what happens if NOK cannot be determined or found?

12:40:58 From MJ: I'm surprised the family makes the decision not the coroner

12:41:21 From danni: @kirby thank you

12:42:02 From Krista (she/her): +1 Would like this answered: For Reed: In what ways are death classification(s) data used?

12:43:02 From Kirby: Hi Hayley. Yes all ages of deaths in Victoria are referred to VIFM.

12:43:11 From Hayley: Thanks Kirby.

12:43:13 From Candace: Thank you, Reed.

12:43:32 From Hayley: Are there many cases where a persons identity cannot be determined these days?

12:43:42 From Kirby: Hi MJ. This usually a decision made my mortuary and Coronial Admission and Enquiries management. If a body is decomposed or traumatised it is always suggested not to have a viewing. However if a family is insistent then we will always accommodate.

12:43:44 From Krista (she/her): Is that fatal sextual assaults?

12:44:11 From Krista (she/her): assaults*

12:45:10 From Kirby: Hi Hayley. Yes all ages of deaths in Victoria are referred to VIFM.

12:49:42 From Kirby: Yes, sadly we have several cases at VIFM whose identity is unknown.

12:52:08 From Candace: For Tara: Are there burial requirements for embalmed bodies (eg: you can't bury with only natural materials)

12:52:16 From MJ: what precautions are taken to view the deceased if embalming isn't done?

12:53:04 From Reed: Hi Krista, we often have VicPol provide our pathology department with samples taken during their investigations... so no, not just death as a result of/in conjunction with sexual assault.

12:55:31 From Reed: @MJ, the final say as to whether an autopsy is performed does fall on the Coroner. As Kirby said, if death is a result of homicide, the autopsy is performed without delay.

12:55:59 From MJ: both

12:58:23 From MJ: thank you Tara

12:58:42 From Stella: For Tara - Are there any alternatives for safely preserving bodies to the traditional embalming fluids/chemicals? Are there anymore "natural" fluids that can be used if someone didn't want embalming chemicals to enter the environment when they are buried etc?

12:59:01 From Hayley: Are there any diseases which would stop you from letting families see the deceased - like for health reasons? You were talking about communicable diseases.

12:59:04 From Kate: And I think that we are lucky in Victoria that there is no legislation as to how long a deceased person can remain in their home.

13:05:10 From Rochelle: That's good to know, @Kate Holmes. Thank you!

13:06:06 From MJ: For Tara: what timeframes does decomposition take for both embalmed & non-embalmed bodies when buried & does casket & soil type play a role in preservation?

13:08:09 From MJ: For Audrey: does vicks help to combat the smell of decomposition & death?

13:09:55 From Kirby: For Audrey: What an incredible career you've had! What is your job now?

13:10:51 From Annie: Thank you Audrey

13:11:16 From Krista (she/her) : From Tara: MJ I personally choose not to use any kind of product to mask smell as it links the olfactory system (where your body will now connect that new smell with the bad smell)

13:11:30 From Amy @ Tender Funerals: What cases have that tag for coroners transfers and why do some need that and others don't?

13:12:32 From Reed: @Amy Sagar, homicide/suspicious deaths will be tagged to make certain there has been no tampering.

13:13:26 From MJ: thanks Kirby & Audrey. I was interested in real life experiences!

13:13:27 From Kate: Sometimes those smells are around when the deceased is alive and that can be a challenge.

13:14:18 From Robert: How true Kate

13:14:42 From Amy @ Tender Funerals: At Tender Funerals we burn incense in our mortuary when looking after the deceased who are decomposed. It also helps hold it as sacred despite their condition

13:14:59 From MJ: Thank you for your honesty in terms of the impacts of this industry
Audrey

13:15:54 From Robert: We use UV and Ozone to control odour in our cool rooms

13:15:57 From dann: @Kate, kitty litter under a bed is very effective at reducing odour. That's what we use in our palliative care unit (plus eucalyptus oil in water)

13:16:24 From Kate: Thanks Danni, I will remember that.

13:18:48 From MJ: Thank you for orchestrating this seminar Kimba & Stass. It's been incredibly insightful & informative in an industry of a natural process that happens everyday but is often kept under wraps.

13:19:51 From Krista (she/her): I love that empowerment aspect, it's so important with the bereavement

13:20:04 From Krista (she/her): bereavement*

13:20:09 From Candace: What a wonderful initiative!

13:20:48 From Krista (she/her): It creates connection.

13:21:26 From MJ: communal healing

13:21:51 From Krista (she/her): FOOD! Such a good tool. People will remember the food you cooked/brought.

13:24:19 From MJ: empowerment with choice & control at the core.

13:30:04 From 50012946: I acknowledge the beautiful community driven service Tender provides - the art of companionship and support. Humans being human together. Making memories and steeped in meaning.

13:31:51 From Robert: Hi Everyone, Unfortunately I must leave the group, now. Happy to talk to anyone that requires more information at any time.

13:32:24 From Candace: Thank you, Robert.

13:32:26 From dann: Thank you Robert, very interesting :)

13:36:42 From Rochelle: When are pacemakers usually removed from the deceased body? (Assuming it's definitely before the body is cremated?)

13:37:14 From Amy Sagar @ Tender Funerals: Pacemakers are removed by the mortician done at the funeral home

13:37:23 From Rochelle: Thank you!

13:37:25 From Kate: Hi Rochelle, Yes Pacemakers need to be removed before the deceased is cremated.

13:37:46 From Krista (she/her): Could I ask why the pacemakers are removed?

13:38:05 From Kimba @ The Last Hurrah: The batteries can explode

13:38:07 From Krista (she/her): You can be made into a record.

13:38:15 From Kirby: @Rochelle. If someone has an autopsy, then we remove it at VIFM/Coroners and are often kept for medical enquiry if needed.

13:38:16 From Kimba @ The Last Hurrah: It costs thousands but yes you can

13:38:37 From Krista (she/her): You can also be blown into beautiful glass artwork as well.

13:38:57 From Kate Holmes: I have my mum's ashes in a Tupperware container. She is also in glass comfort stones and a paperweight which sits in the office I am in.

13:39:16 From Krista (she/her): Thank for sharing @Kate

13:41:09 From Krista (she/her): @Lauren, how often do you allow people to be present during the cremation?

13:42:11 From Krista (she/her): Is it true that small children take longer to burn because they have less body fat?

13:42:53 From Krista (she/her): Children or smaller people*

13:44:56 From MJ: what is the maximum size the cremator could accommodate Lauren?

13:47:32 From Krista (she/her): Are the graves lined with concrete?

13:48:03 From Asha May: This is for Lauren: In Buddhist tradition, they often make reference to "relics" being left after cremation. It usually refers to pearl/crystal like bead-shaped objects. Have you experienced anything like this when processing the remains after cremation?

13:49:16 From Annie: thank you very much

13:49:35 From Amy Sagar @ Tender Funerals : I can be reached at www.tenderfunerals.org or on facebook Tender Funerals Illawarra & Sydney

13:54:29 From Krista (she/her): Are the buyers of the home informed when someone has died?

13:54:56 From danni: @Stass- how long did this house take to clean?

13:56:29 From Audrey Lake: Thanks everyone! Lovely to virtually meet you all.

13:56:56 From Rochelle: Many thanks to all the speakers!

13:56:58 From Krista (she/her): Thank you everyone. I would love to attend more of these in the future.

13:56:59 From Candace: Thank you, everyone!

13:57:11 From Sharon: Thank you!