

**Preparing for Death**  
*– 2 day course hosted by Kunsang Yeshe Centre –*

**Designing Your Own Funeral**

*Please review the outline of the funeral service below and then design your own funeral service or celebration of your life.*

*You will need to consider who you would like to have involved in the various roles: eg: celebrant or MC, person to do the eulogy, others to read any prayers or inspirational words, play music or any other activities; also the actual readings or prayers you would like.*

*You will also need to choose some favourite pieces of music and choose where you would like to have the gathering – whether you would prefer cremation or burial and what to do with your remains.*

*The following outline is to give you an idea of how to approach your planning. Anything can be changed or added such as more musical interludes, a live piece of music being played, a dance performed, candles being lit, sparklers, balloons released, bagpipes, anything...*

*The service can be held outside in nature or inside a chapel or church, in the back yard at home, anywhere you like. There are no legal requirements regarding where funeral services are held and the celebrant or MC does not need to have a licence.*

**Basic Structure of a Funeral Service**

*(can be changed or adjusted in any way you like)*

1. **Opening Music**
2. **Introduction and Opening Remarks** by celebrant or MC
3. **First Reading** – can be a prayer, poem, inspirational reading, personal piece of writing
4. **Second Reading** – prayer, poem, inspirational reading, personal piece of writing
5. **Eulogy** – usually about 5 minutes, read by a friend or family member
6. **Second eulogy** – sometimes a second eulogy is done by a work colleague or by a friend from another aspect of your life
7. **Opportunity for people to speak** – can either be spontaneous or planned beforehand where people share brief memories or stories
8. **Quiet Reflection with Music** – photos may be projected onto a screen and sometimes family and / or everyone places a flower on the coffin while the music is playing
9. **Further remarks** by the celebrant or MC – this may include a committal
10. **Closing the service and final music** as people leave