



Community Benefit Scheme - NSWALC Funeral Fund

Terms & Conditions

Under Section 108 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (**NSWALC**) is able to provide a community benefit scheme for the provision of a funeral benefit scheme for the benefit of Aboriginal persons. NSWALC has adopted clear policy guidelines for the provision of financial assistance relating to the costs of funerals for Aboriginal persons in NSW.

This NSWALC Funeral Fund policy is current as at 12 January 2016.

In making a claim to the Fund, one grant per eligible person will be available for the maximum amount identified below under 'Eligibility'.

Grants for valid claims will only be paid directly to the Funeral service provider identified on the Claim form and invoice.

NSWALC will **NOT** provide retrospective grants from the Fund directly to family members for the reimbursement of costs associated with a funeral of an otherwise eligible person.

NSWALC has determined the following criteria for a valid claim;

Eligibility

- a) Members of the former Funeral Insurance Fund, who were financial members at the time it closed, remain eligible for a grant of up to \$5000 for '*Claimable Funeral Expenses*'. If seeking to transfer membership benefits to a deceased Aboriginal person (who ceases to be eligible for any other NSWALC funeral grant) the member of the Fund will also be required to sign a Deed of Release (waiving any future right to claim benefits from the membership of the former funeral fund);
- b) The following Aboriginal persons who are not members of the former Funeral Insurance Fund are eligible for a grant of up to \$1000 for '*Claimable Funeral Expenses*';
 - i. Aboriginal persons being buried in NSW (whether or not they resided in NSW)
 - ii. Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) members (whether or not they reside or are buried in NSW)

NOTE: Funerals for non-Aboriginal persons are **NOT** eligible to receive a grant from the Fund (unless a member of the former Funeral Fund).

Claimable Funeral Expenses

For eligible claims, NSWALC will contribute toward the costs of a basic funeral which includes:

- a) Funeral parlour service fee.
- b) Casket/coffin.
- c) Cemetery.
- d) Removal fee from hospital to funeral parlour.
- e) Clergy fee.
- f) Death certificate and/or doctor's certification for cremation.
- g) Preparation of body for burial.

NSWALC will **NOT** contribute towards the following costs:

- a) Headstones or plaques.
- b) Return of bodies from one town to another for burial.
- c) Floral tributes
- d) Radio or newspaper announcements.
- e) Costs of additional cars.
- f) Viewing fees
- g) Organist fees.
- h) Services that are paid for by any other government or non-government funeral assistance scheme
- i) Wake

Documentation to be provided for a Valid Claim

NSWALC will require the following for a Valid Claim:

- a) The completion of a funeral grant claim form, and
- b) Invoice for the funeral, and
- c) Evidence of death* - see '*acceptable supporting documents*' below, and
- d) Confirmation of Aboriginality or LALC membership as necessary** – see '*acceptable supporting documents*' below
- e) Letter from claimant requesting transfer of Funeral Fund membership (if applicable)
*(prenatal death is exempt from this requirement)
**(members of the former Funeral Insurance Fund are exempt from this requirement, except if seeking to transfer membership benefits. If seeking to transfer membership benefits, a confirmation of Aboriginality will be required for the deceased)

Acceptable Supporting Documents

NSWALC will accept the following documents as **Evidence of Death***:

- a) Death Certificate
- b) Disposal of body
- c) Coroner's Report
- d) Medical Certificate of Cause of Death – this is a specific form that is different to a regular medical certificate

NSWALC will only accept the following documents as **Confirmation of Aboriginality**:

- a) Confirmation from a LALC
- b) Declaration from a NSWALC Councillor

MAKING A CLAIM

1. Complete the NSWALC Funeral Grant Claim form
2. Attach the required *'Documentation to be provided for a Valid Claim'*
3. Send the completed claim to:

funeralgrants@alc.org.au

or

**NSWALC Funeral Grants
PO Box 1125
Parramatta NSW 2124**

Complete claims will be assessed against the criteria listed above and you will be notified of the outcome. Payment grants can take up to 4 weeks.

PLEASE NOTE: that where there is insufficient documentation claims will NOT be processed.