



**PUBLIC TRUSTEE  
AND GUARDIAN**

## UNCLAIMED BODIES

Families that wish to arrange a funeral, but due to financial hardship are unable to, may seek financial assistance under the ACT Government's Assisted Funeral Scheme (refer

[https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/1134546/ACT-Funeral-Assistance-Program-Guidelines.pdf](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1134546/ACT-Funeral-Assistance-Program-Guidelines.pdf)).

Where families, or the deceased person's estate, are not involved in arranging a funeral, the function of disposing of unclaimed bodies lies with the Public Trustee and Guardian (PTG).

The Unclaimed Bodies Scheme provides funding for the disposal of the remains of an unclaimed deceased person and involves a number of ACT Government agencies and service providers.

In simple terms, an unclaimed deceased person is a person-

- whose death is registerable in the ACT
- whose estate or next of kin -
  - cannot be found; or,
  - is unwilling or unable to make funeral arrangements for the person
- who does not meet the eligibility criteria for the Assisted Funeral Scheme.

Under the Scheme, ACT Policing undertakes inquiries to determine

whether a deceased person is unclaimed. ACT Policing will generally notify PTG no earlier than 3 months after the person's date of death.

Upon notification, PTG undertakes arrangements for the disposal of the body involving a basic cremation or burial.

PTG will make arrangements with a funeral director to undertake the transportation and to dispose of the body.

The Scheme covers the cost of the cremation/burial and transportation, but does not cover any other peripheral expenses e. g. headstones, religious services, flowers etc.

PTG has a role in investigating whether there is an associated estate to administer however is under no obligation to administer any such estate.

If PTG elects to administer an estate, the PTG will seek to be appointed/elect to administer the estate. The estate will be administered under the *Administration and Probate Act 1929*.

Enquiries should be directed to PTG at 62079800 or by email to [ptg@act.gov.au](mailto:ptg@act.gov.au).