

Writing and Delivering a Eulogy

This support sheet will assist those taking on the important and honourable role of delivering a eulogy.

What does the word “eulogy” mean?

A eulogy is a short reflection offered at a funeral service that pays tribute to someone who has just passed away.

Who can deliver a eulogy?

Anyone, whether family or friend of the deceased can deliver a eulogy.

What should I talk about in a eulogy?

A eulogy can be delivered as a timeline of someone 's life or can simply be a collection of stories and memories. Engaging the minds and hearts of your fellow mourners by using statements like “I remember the time when....”, “The thing that made her special was.....” Or inclusive language like “we will never forget how.....” will evoke fond memories of the deceased. You should not be afraid to include a little humour in a eulogy as it can promote feelings of gentle relief at a time of great sadness.

How long should a eulogy go for?

Depending on the circumstances most eulogies will go for around 5-10 minutes. You should confirm this with your celebrant or funeral director as there may be time constraints at some services.

What if I am too upset to deliver the eulogy on the day?

If you are struggling emotionally on the day of the funeral and feel that you are unable to deliver the eulogy, remember that this is ultimately a time for you and your family . It will not matter at all if someone else either steps up to stand beside you to offer support , or actually steps in and speaks on your behalf. Perhaps consider having a person on standby just in case you are unable to speak, and have your eulogy clearly written or printed out so that either you or someone else feels confident enough to speak.