

Gujarati Community of Queensland



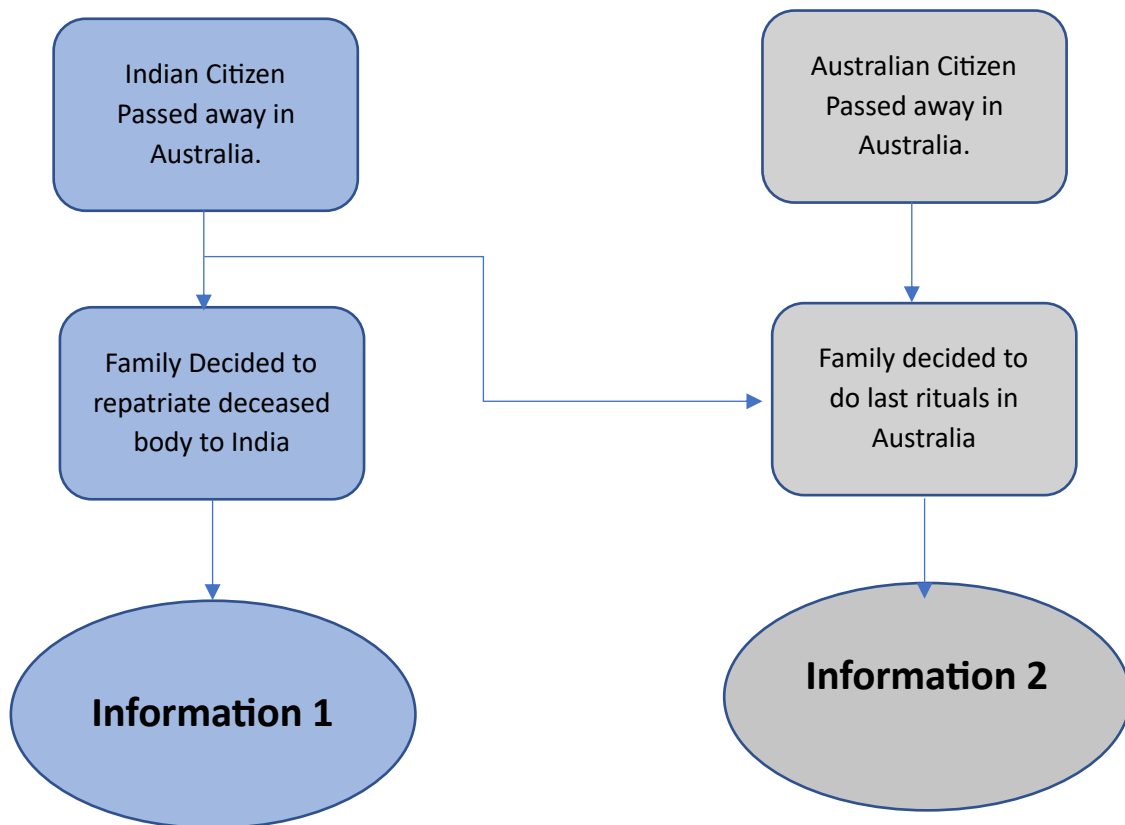
Death and Dying in Australia (For Indian Nationals)

There are number of Gujarati families are living in Queensland and in Australia. Most of them are of either first or second-generation residents. They do have great family bonding with their immediate family members and friends in Gujarat, India. Gujarati family living in Queensland, Australia are generally inviting their parents, family members and friends for short term visit. Generally, It is common for parents to visit their children and grandchildren for short term.

In some unexpected situation, if visitor parents get sick or hospitalised or deceased would put family members and friends in disordered and helpless situation.

Without any legal liabilities, Gujarati Community of Queensland Inc. (GCQ) is trying to extract and explain a procedure to follow during this kind of unexpected situation. The information is taken from website of Ministry of External Affairs of India (MEA), Consulate General of India in Australia and personal experience from the members involved.

Procedure to follow as per below:



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INFORMATION 1

Death and dying in Australia and Body Repatriation to India

Three Avenues to go to with step-by-step guide

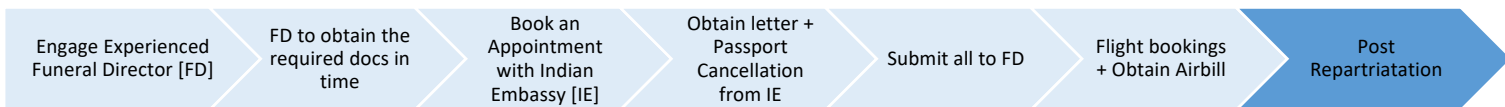
1. Funeral Director



2. Indian Embassy



Repatriation



Steps	Description /Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Engage Experienced Funeral Director [FD]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Funeral Director experienced in repatriating body to India is ideal for the engagement. - FD usually charges around \$8k-\$10k depending upon the flight charges. Rest costs are fixed.
<input type="checkbox"/> FD to obtain the required docs in time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FD arranges all the documents required by Indian Embassy and Australian Immigration for repatriation. - Docs such as package of docs from the hospital (if death was in the hospital), death cert, embalming cert, non-communicable disease cert etc. 4 copies of each + Original to be separated in bundle of each required for IE to stamp through. - It is important to review the details listed in all documents such as name, address etc are accurate and as listed in passport. Overlooking of typo mistakes may cause extended delays. - It is also important that flights are booked and not confirmed prior meeting IE.
<input type="checkbox"/> Book an Appointment with Indian Embassy [IE]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Along with the original passport of the deceased, IE will review and stamp each document (4 x Bundle of copies) - It is important to book appointment well in advance for IE to review and stamp. - After successful review of provided documents, IE will cancel the passport and issue an official letter for both Indian and Australian immigration advising body repatriation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Obtain letter + Passport Cancellation from IE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important to then create 4 packages of each copy. The set of original copies along with the cancelled passport to be packaged on top of the coffin and NOT INSIDE THE COFFIN. - 1 x set goes to FD for their records. - 1 x set goes with the immediate family member accompanying the body / listed as receiver of the body in India. - 1 x set goes to IE for their records.
<input type="checkbox"/> Submit all to FD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once all the formalities from IE completed, remaining responsibilities shall be taken by FD that includes; - Confirming flight bookings - Obtain and provide Air bill and share the same to the receiver. - Clear the custom at the cargo services [takes about 6 hours]. No involvement from family required here.
<input type="checkbox"/> Post Repatriation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depending upon where the body is being repatriated, a local connection definitely helps clearing the customs in India.

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INFORMATION 2

Death and dying in Australia and Last Rituals in Australia

Three Avenues to go to with step-by-step guide

1. Funeral Director



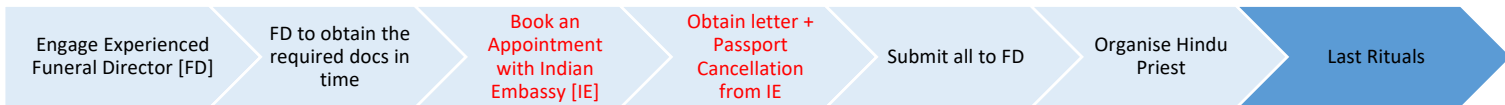
2. Indian Embassy

(Only if hold Indian Passport)



Last Rituals

(In Brisbane)



Steps	Description /Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Engage Experienced Funeral Director [FD]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Funeral Director experienced in Hindu last rituals is ideal for the engagement. - FD usually charges around depending upon the how you decide their packages (e.g. bring deceased body at home from hospital for last prayers, flowers, selection of crematorium etc. Rest costs are fixed.
<input type="checkbox"/> FD to obtain the required docs in time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FD arranges all the documents required for funeral from Hospital and Authorities. - It is important to review the details listed in all documents such as name, address etc are accurate and as listed in passport. Overlooking of typo mistakes may cause extended delays. - Please inform If you would like to take Ashes to India. So, he can include that in his quote. - It is also important that flights are booked and not confirmed prior meeting IE.
<input type="checkbox"/> Only If deceased hold Indian Passport Book an Appointment with Indian Embassy [IE]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Along with the original passport of the deceased, IE will review and stamp each document (4 x Bundle of copies) - It is important to book appointment well in advance for IE to review and stamp.
<input type="checkbox"/> Obtain letter of Ashes transportation + Passport Cancellation from IE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IE will issue certificate of Transportation for Ashes - After successful review of provided documents, IE will cancel the passport and issue an official letter for both Indian and Australian immigration advising cancellation of passport
<input type="checkbox"/> Submit all to FD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once all the formalities from IE completed, remaining responsibilities shall be taken by FD that includes; - Confirming Funeral date with Crematorium - Deceased body collection and preparation - Deceased body transport to crematorium - Provide ashes in transportable container with paperwork
<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu Ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact and engage Hindu priest to carry out last rituals earlier and on the day of funeral

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Contact Details and Information

1. The contact details of Honorary Consul of India in Brisbane

Mrs. Archana Singh Honorary Consul

Contact Details

Honorary Consulate of India,
175 A Swann Road. Taringa, QLD-4068

Phone: 07 3871 3362

Fax: 07-3371 5198

Email: indcon@optusnet.com.au

Note that, there is NO FEES charge from Indian Consulate for this service.

2. Tony Hollands Funerals (Recommended. But you can contact other agencies to compare the quote)

Mr Kodi Sawtell

Tonyhollandsfunerals.com.au

Phone: 07 3392 9919 (24 hrs)

969 Fairfield Road. Yeerongpilly QLD 4105

Email: info@tonyhollandsfunerals.com.au

3. Hindu Priest – Gujarati
Sh Punit (Maharaj) Pandya
Phone: 0414 999 542

4. Hindu Priest
Sh. Surendra Sharma
Phone: 0413471397

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Other important information:

Q – My relative died in Queensland, Australia; and I would like to repatriate deceased mortal body to India.

A) Death in Hospital

In the event of a death in Hospital most formalities are dealt with by the hospital or other authority.

B) Death occurred at Home

If the death occurred at home, the first thing to do is contact the family doctor or Doctor on call, who will provide a death certificate. If the death was unexpected then the death is referred to the State **Coroner's Office**.

Q – When a death is referred to Coroner's office?

A death is referred to a coroner if:

- The person died unexpectedly. This includes a person under long term medical care
- The death was the result of an accident or injury, even if the cause of death appears clear
- The death occurred in an unnatural or violent way
- The person died as a result of or during an anaesthetic
- The identity of the deceased is unknown
- A doctor has been unable to sign the death certificate giving a cause of death
- The deceased was 'held in care' at the time of death. This includes people in police custody, those held involuntarily in psychiatric care and children in juvenile justice centres
- The deceased had been diagnosed with dementia

A coroner decides if an autopsy is to be performed within 48 hours of the death occurring. During this time a funeral director can be contacted to begin funeral arrangements. The chosen funeral director makes arrangements with the coroner to release the body.

Q – Who will provide a death certificate?

The death certificate is the official registration of a death in Australia. The certificate is signed by the doctor who pronounces the death. It must be registered with the Register of Birth,

Marriages and Deaths of the State or Territory Government Office. Funeral/Repatriation of body arrangements cannot be made without a signed death certificate.

Q – How to arrange Funeral/cremation/Burial or Repatriation of deceased body to India?

If you would like to arrange cremation or Burial,

www.gcq.org.au

info@gcq.org.au

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The first thing you need to do is engage a Funeral Director. You can search, contact and select Funeral director from AFDA website <http://afda.org.au/#1487207564616-e7cd0bce-5559> Always attempt to get 3 quotations for the services requirement as there are price differences for require services. e.g. viewing service/floral tribute, certification, other inclusions **Role of Funeral director**

provide information over the phone to bereaved people, arrange for the removal of bodies from private homes, hospitals and sometimes from accident scenes, give advice on funeral arrangements, interview relatives to discuss style of funeral coffin/casket, cars, flowers and costs, preserve, prepare for repatriation and keep bodies for viewing before burial or cremation, satisfy Ashes requirements

Q – Who will arrange flight tickets and transport for deceased body for repatriation?

Funeral Director would arrange Flight tickets and transport if you have included in his services.

Q – How much time it would take for deceased body to reach home?

It depends on process and flight ticket booking. Please expect 5-10 days for mortal body to reach to home. The Indian Embassy/Consulate stays in touch with the concerned local authorities to expedite the process.