How have you cared for someone who's dying?

I cared for my husband who had lung cancer at home. I learnt how strong he was. My advice is to take one day at a time and make wonderful memories that will see you through the time after your loved one passes.

- Marie

Mostly for me it was just such a humbling experience and a real privilege. I felt like I was being given such a gift, helping my loved one get to where he needed to go.

- Chris

With Mum, I stuck a brand new lipstick in with her because she would never leave the house without lippy. They never ever told me what they wanted and I stress to friends with parents still alive to talk to them about it.

- Maree
What song do you want played at your funeral?

I want dancing in the street by Bowie and Mick.
- Margaret

Bon Jovi’s I’ll Sleep When I’m Dead, followed by ACDC’s Back in Black. Then all will have a BBQ and a glass of good Red as I venture to the Afterlife.
- Darren

My parents both wanted the duet from The Pearlfishers opera even though they’d separated many years before their respective deaths.
- Meredith

It’s a cremation for me, so I’d like Feelin’ Hot Hot Hot!
- Margie

Oh how I wish my mum had picked one and told us.
- Sherelle

A couple of songs in mind: "Oh, my mama told me, there’ll be days like this" by Van Morrison. Or Return to Sender by Elvis.
- Liz
What do you wish for the end of your life?

As a palliative care nurse I have seen many journeys. I want mine to be as pain free as possible with lots of laughter and music until that time that I turn inward for the final leg of the journey. Then I want quiet whispers and soft lighting.

- Alyson

I want to know that my paperwork is up-to-date and my family won't have to deal with too much admin. Then, while I've got the energy, I'd like lots of visits and phone calls from friends so we can share stories and reminisce.

- Jessie

My kids know what I want and where I want to be. Home with family and friends around me. Peace and quiet. Then take the money in the draw and have a huge party to celebrate my life.

- Donna

Dying To Know Day
8th August
dyingtoknowday.org
How can you start a conversation about death?

Personal examples of great funerals I’ve been too and what made them amazing. Often sparks good chats!
- Carly

Humour and heartfelt stories seems to get the conversation happening.
- Maree

I’ve found that reminiscing with family or friends about a loved one who has died often leads to sharing ideas about what we want for the end of our own lives.
- Wendy

Fireside conversations!
- Ruby

Always starts with laughter then eases the conversation to the ‘taboo’ topic everyone is afraid to talk about, but will meet one day.
- Lisa

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