

## **PROPS AND EQUIPMENT**

You will no doubt have your own ideas of what you need to run a funeral but the following check list of commonly used items may be helpful:

- ◆ Clothing (religious or other suitable smart, neutral clothes)
- ◆ Incense
- ◆ Candles
- ◆ Matches
- ◆ Incense offering bowl or stand
- ◆ Water offering bowls
- ◆ A bell
- ◆ A Buddha rupa or other religious images
- ◆ A picture of the deceased
- ◆ Flowers and other natural items to set up a shrine and to decorate the funeral space
- ◆ Large cloths or throws to cover a table or make a backdrop
- ◆ Small folding table (s) for impromptu shrines or for putting items needed by celebrant on
- ◆ Cards on which mourners can write messages
- ◆ Any tokens the family wish to give to mourners (eg small posies of flowers, cards etc)
- ◆ Music (cassettes, CDs etc, and maybe player)
- ◆ Whatever service sheet, copies of readings, chants, hymns etc will be needed
- ◆ Cellotape, blu tac, pins etc
- ◆ Clingfilm and plastic bags

Particular ceremonies may involve using other items eg

- ◆ Water bowl and whisk
- ◆ Coloured cord or thread
- ◆ Musical instruments (drum, cymbals, wood blocks etc)
- ◆ Mandala offerings
- ◆ An image the can be carried ahead of the coffin
- ◆ Mala (rosary)

### **Logistics**

Remember the coffin needs to be either already present or carried into the funeral space. The route must be accessible. It will also need to leave.

Funeral directors may need to be briefed about removing shoes if you are holding the funeral in a shrine room.

As you are setting up the room prior to the funeral, walk I through the entrance the mourners will use to check that the first view of the room is as you intend. If you are holding the funeral at a crematorium remember time is short. Be prepared in advance to set up whatever you need quickly.