

# *Caring Beyond Life*

## A GENTLE AND HOLISTIC LOOK AT MORTUARY CARE



# Jacqui Morgan of Natural Grace Holistic Funerals In Conversation with Julie Fletcher

For families seeking a softer, more compassionate way to honour and farewell their loved ones.

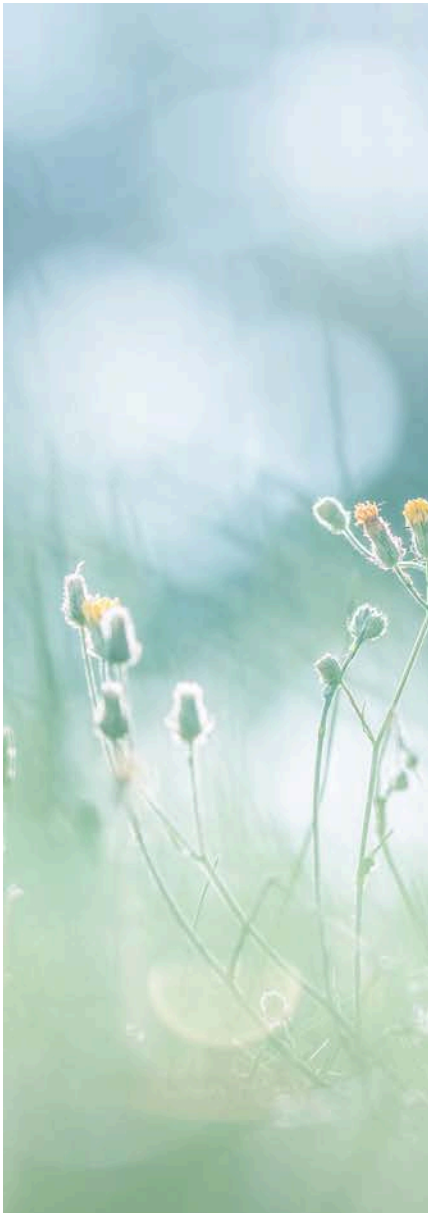


## *Introduction*

In today's deeply moving conversation, we step into a space rarely spoken about—but one filled with profound care, reverence, and love. Jacqui, a mortician and co-owner of Natural Grace Holistic Funerals, speaks with Julie and opens her heart, offering insight into holistic after-death care and the sacred role of those who care for our loved ones.

For many, the idea of a mortician might bring images of a cold, clinical role. But Jacqui's story tells a different tale—one of warmth, compassion, and a calling to ensure every person is treated with dignity and tenderness at the end of life.

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## Holistic Mortuary Care in Practice

Holistic mortuary care means caring for the whole person—even in death. Jacqui refers to the deceased as her "guests," and she lovingly prepares them for their final journey. This includes washing, dressing, shaving, and even gently applying makeup if requested.

Jacqui never rushes this process. Families are invited to participate as much or as little as they like. They may help wash, dress, or brush their loved one's hair. Jacqui supports them with gentle guidance, always respecting their emotional pace.

“I’m not here to take over. I’m here to facilitate,” she says. “This is your person. This is your relationship. I’m just here to hold you while you hold them.”

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# The Role of Ritual and Connection

The sanctuaries at Natural Grace are calm, welcoming spaces where families can take their time. For some, that means sitting nearby while Jacqui prepares their loved one. For others, it means returning each day to spend quiet moments with them—perhaps sharing a cup of tea at the same time each day, just as they used to in life.

These moments of connection help families grieve without regret. By actively participating in after-death care, they often experience a deeper peace and healing.





## Children and Death: Honesty and Openness

One of the most profound parts of Jacqui's work involves supporting children. Rather than shielding them, she encourages families to speak openly and honestly, in age-appropriate ways.

Children, she says, are often the "rockstars" of vigils. They're naturally curious and emotionally honest. With gentle explanation "Grandpa's hands are cold now because he's not working in the garden anymore" children are able to step into the space, offer drawings, sing songs, and say goodbye in their own way.

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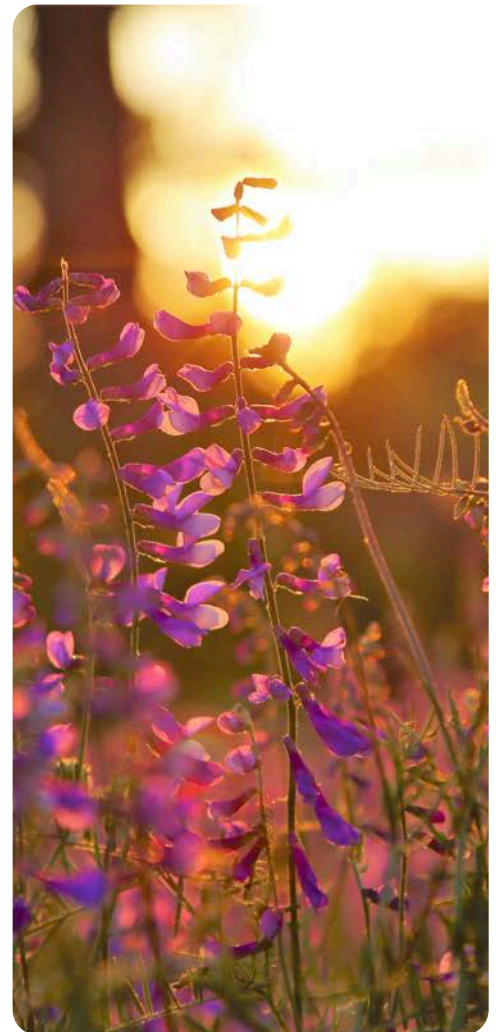
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Holistic mortuary care is about giving people space, time, and tenderness in their final moments. It's about restoring dignity, offering choice, and supporting families to grieve without regret.

## The Spirit in the Room

Jacqui speaks openly about the spiritual energy she sometimes feels when caring for her guests. Some rooms feel filled with peace. Others, especially sudden deaths, carry a different, more disoriented energy.

Regardless of belief, Jacqui always speaks to her guests. She honours them, communicates what she's doing, and holds space for their journey. "If they ever talk back," she jokes, "I'm taking them home."





## *A Loving Farewell is Possible*

Jacqui's message is clear: we don't have to follow a rigid or impersonal model of death care. Families have choices. They can keep their person at home. They can be involved. They can grieve in ways that feel right for them.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel," she says. "We're just bringing back practices that existed for generations—where the community showed up, where loved ones helped prepare the body, where people were surrounded by food, stories, and care."

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## Final Reflections

Jacqui's story reminds us that death can be met with the same love, gentleness, and care we offer in life.

For more information about holistic funeral care, visit:

[www.naturalgrace.com.au](http://www.naturalgrace.com.au)



*Thank you!*

Share this eBook with someone  
who may find comfort in  
knowing there's a softer way  
to say goodbye.



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