

Ministerial Advisory Committee for Cemeteries and Crematoria

A Ministerial Advisory Council for Cemeteries and Crematoria (the Committee) has been established to provide advice to the Minister for Health on measures to strengthen strategic planning and governance across all cemetery trusts, and improve the sustainability and efficiency of the sector, to better meet the needs of the Victorian community.

The Committee is a Group C organisation under the *Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines for Victorian Government Boards, Statutory Bodies and Advisory Committees* (July 2011) (the guidelines). The Committee brings together a board with a collective capacity in corporate governance, finance, law, business management, community services, land planning, environmental management and industry.

Role of the Committee

The Committee will provide independent advice to the Minister on sector wide strategic planning, governance and matters relating to the sustainability and efficiency of the sector, with a particular focus on providing the Minister with recommendations on:

- The development of a strategic framework for the cemeteries and crematoria sector to ensure that planning, investment and decision making is relevant to the needs of the community and provides a sustainable base for the future.
- Strategies for financial, governance and operational systems to ensure cemetery trust funds and assets are managed efficiently and transparently.
- Strategies to ensure burial needs are met now and in the future.
- Options to address sustainability issues for cemeteries and crematoria and develop strategies to improve the delivery of services.
- Undertake other roles and responsibilities related to the cemeteries and crematoria sector that may be requested by the Minister.

Membership of the Committee

Chairperson

Chairperson: Professor Anona Armstrong, Director of Research and Research Training at the College of Law & Justice at Victoria University.

Members

The following members have been appointed:

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| Mr Frank de Groot | President, Cemeteries and Crematoria Association Victoria Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Operations Manager Geelong Cemeteries Trust Representative on the Funeral Industry roundtable Experience in the management of cemeteries and crematoria Geelong Cemetery Trust Chairperson |
| Mr Lyndon Smith | Business Owner Brings expertise in business management and experience in local government |

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| Ms Jane Grover | Chief Operating Officer, Southern Metro Cemetery Trust Experience in business and change management, communications Business Manager Ballarat Cemetery Trust |
| Mr Kevin Murnane | Experience in Management of cemeteries and crematoria, Finance and business management |
| Mr Fred Grossman | General Manager, Melbourne Chevra Kadisha Cemetery Trust Held senior management roles, Management of cemeteries and crematoria Corporate governance and management |
| Ms Christine Thompson | Member of the Bendigo Cemetery Trust and the Gisborne Cemetery Trust Honorary Treasurer, Cemeteries and Crematoria Association Victoria Cemetery trust and small business experience Chairperson the Echuca Cemetery Trust |
| Mr David Jones | 45 years' experience in the Monumental Industry Former Councillor Shire of Deakin and former member Victorian Consumer Affairs Committee |
| Ms Anne Gallacher | Member of the Stuart Mill Cemetery Trust Expertise in education |
| Mr Andrew Pinder | Funeral Director and representative on Consumer Affairs Victoria Funeral Industry Roundtable Expertise in business, law and management. |
| Mr David Weatherill | 25 years' experience in cemetery research including history and legislation Brings expertise in research and experience in higher education |
| Mr Russell Allison | Director of a specialised Cemetery and Funeral Consultancy Previously Chief Executive Officer, Springvale Cemetery Previous experience in funeral directors |
| Ms Diane Rule | Member of the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust Expertise in policy development, business and governance. |
| Ms Vicki Coltman | Councillor, City of Ballarat Senior management experience within business and governance. |

Meetings

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 18 December 2013. Updates on the Committees work will be provided on this web page on a regular basis.