

**Submission
No 3**

INQUIRY INTO FUNERAL INDUSTRY

Organisation:

Name: Mr J Hogan

Telephone:

Date Received: 12/04/2005

Theme:

Summary

The Secretariat,
Standing Committee on Social Issues,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

Received
12 APR 2005

Dear Secretary,

I warmly supported Dr. Arthur Chesterfield-Evans' speak out about the funeral industry ripoffs - because I have nothing to finance my death, it would be cheaper to 'dispose my body in the rubbish bin' prevailing the legal power to protect the undertakers' fat pockets and their criminal intents.

The aged pensioners on full basic pensions living in the government rental housing without investment/assets should qualify for the government assistance to disposal like private cremation of the cardboard caskets, what about the Public Works' Destitute Persons scheme to be incorporated for the certified poor aged pensioners ?

The Pacific Islanders has no undertakers they do themselves legally accord to their own religion, put bodies on the trucks and bury in their own front gardens or 'dig your own' community cemetery around the village churches ! They are very religious than our money gobbling evils.

The Centrelink only offer the \$800 bereavement allowance is not enough, they should bear full cost before terminate the advanced pensions to suit the funeral industry ripoff (ie two years of advanced pensions after death could pay \$10,000 cost !) I am appalled about the 90% reduction of the Queensland undertakers' cost ! that is what the Centrelink offered ?

My aged wife and I get \$170 a week each less \$47 a week each government rent plus cruel GST on gas/electricity - save nothing for our death.

Few undertakers has secretly disposed the bodies, recycled expensive timbered caskets and filling in the jars of concrete powder instead of the cremated ashes still charged \$10,000 per victim as heard in the Courts, they should be publicity flogging and hanged in the front of G.P.O. not to be merely fined they can afford, because the legislation was too weak to protect the greedy businesses.

I am not sure if you deal with this situation or to consult with the Minister of Works ? If nothing solve I could jump off the ship with weight cost nothing.

* A copy of this letter will be forwarded to Dr. Chesterfield-Evans supporting his sense of stand.

Thanking you for your concern and investigation.

Yours' faithfully,



Mr. J. Hogan.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Standing Committee on Social Issues Reference

12 APR 2005

Dr Chesterfield-Evans says—

Madam PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

That the Standing Committee on Social Issues inquire into and report on the funeral industry and in particular:

- (a) changes in the funeral industry over the past decade including the cost of funerals, the degree of competition, vertical integration and ownership,
- (b) the availability and affordability of cemetery plots, and options to increase the supply of plots,
- (c) the adequacy of existing regulation of the funeral industry to protect consumers, public health and employees,
- (d) the most effective means of regulating the funeral industry to protect consumers, public health and employees,
- (e) the role and structure of the Funeral Industry Council, and
- (f) the adequacy of legislation in meeting community needs.

Signed

J Hogan

Dated

9/4/5.