

Submission  
No 14

## INQUIRY INTO FUNERAL INDUSTRY

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mrs Maria Fatarella

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 25/05/2005

---

**Theme:**

**Summary**

Mrs Maria Fatarella

25 MAY 2005

Chairperson  
Social Issues Committee  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

The attached submission is presented on a personal basis. I am pleased to be offered this opportunity to express my dissatisfaction over many years of the exorbitant charges made by funeral homes at the most vulnerable time of our life.

Yours truly



Maria Fatarella  
23 May 2005

Mrs Maria Fatarella

There is a time in our lives when we all need a funeral. This submission is made in the cause of Social Justice. Funeral Directors are holding us to ransom as there is no alternative to the present system. This inquiry into the funeral industry addresses the injustices of costs which the industry is manipulating from an envious position.

A simple 'basic' cremation (which the Concise Oxford Dictionary quotes as "the burial with its observances, obsequies; burial procession") by a firm auspiced by Invocare Ltd varies , as at April 2005, from \$1900.00 plus the following extras:

Cremation Medical Certificate	\$154.00
Death Certificate	\$39.60
After Hours transfer	\$352.00

to be prepaid prior to the cremation.

A privately owned funeral home quoted \$2600.00 for business hours transfer, death and medical certificate and basic coffin with delivery to the crematorium.

There are five Funeral Homes advertising in the Hastings Local Government Area. Two entries belong to the same firm covering Port Macquarie and Laurieton. Quotes in the Hastings LGA, as at April 2005 range from \$2600.00 to \$3700.00

My husband died in August 2003 and he had requested a simple cremation without a funeral. The charge for collection of his body from our home and subsequent cremation was \$3200.00. This included GST of \$290.91. The same funeral home has stated, as at April 2005, this charge is now \$3600.00.

In August 2003 the charges were as listed hereunder:

Cremation fees	\$621.50
Cremation Certificates	\$143.00
Certified Death Certificate	\$45.10
Service fee	\$1360.40
Transfer	\$260.00
Preservation	\$190.00

Coffin basic

\$580.00

The inexplicable charges by this funeral home, particularly Service fee; After hours transfer; basic coffin, gives rise to my personal view that these charges are not controlled by law.

In faith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Fatarella".

Maria Fatarella

23 May 2005.