

## INQUIRY INTO FUNERAL INDUSTRY

**Organisation:** National Trust of Australia (New South Wales)  
**Name:** Ms Jacqui Goddard  
**Position:** Conservation Director  
**Telephone:** 9258 0123  
**Date Received:** 25/05/2005

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

## NATIONAL TRUST



**DIAMOND JUBILEE  
1945 - 2005**

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Salon des Refuses:  
the *alternative* Archibald & Wynne  
Prize Selection  
**30 April – 19 June 2005**

NATIONAL TRUST S H ERVIN GALLERY  
WATSON ROAD, OBSERVATORY HILL  
*Gallery Hours*  
*Tues- Sun 11am-5pm*  
*Closed Monday & public holidays*



**THE HON CRAIG KNOWLES MP**  
Addresses the National Trust Corporate  
Breakfast  
Thursday 16 June  
Hotel InterContinental  
7.30am - 9.00am  
Bookings: 9258 0124



**PROFESSOR ED BLAKELY**  
Addresses the National Trust  
Wyatt Conservation Series  
Thursday 9 June  
6pm - 8pm  
National Trust SH Ervin Gallery  
Bookings: 9258 0123

For further information on these events and  
many more checkout the Trust web site  
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**FAX TO:** Standing Committee on Social Issues

**FAX NO.:** 9230 2981

**ATTENTION:** The Director

**FROM:** Jacqui Goddard

**DATE:** 25-05-05 No. of Pages incl this one: 3

**MESSAGE:**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a submission for the Legislative  
Council's Inquiry into the Funeral Industry from the  
National Trust of Australia (NSW).

Yours Faithfully,

Jacqui Goddard  
Conservation Director

The National Trust is a not-for-profit, non-government, community based  
organisation working to conserve our built, natural and cultural heritage.  
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NATIONAL TRUST

DIAMOND JUBILEE  
1945 - 2005

25 May 2005

The Director  
Standing Committee on Social Issues  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Legislative Council Inquiry into the Funeral Industry Social Issues Committee**

The National Trust has had a longstanding interest in the conservation and maintenance of cemeteries. Due to a lack of long-term planning, burial space in metropolitan areas is reaching a critical point. Many cemeteries are running out of space for new graves.

To meet the ongoing maintenance and conservation costs, cemeteries need a regular income. Keeping a cemetery "active" is one positive way to ensure an income stream.

The National Trust supports in principle the policy of re-sale of un-used burial rights and the re-use of burial plots as a means of addressing the shortage of burial space, thus assuring the ongoing income and maintenance of cemeteries. How such policies can be effectively implemented to conserve the heritage significance of cemeteries still needs to be thoroughly investigated, but the principle is not incompatible with cemetery

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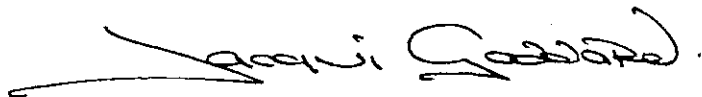
conservation. Pere la Chaise cemetery in Paris retains all of its heritage values but is in a constant state of reuse, and there are many other examples.

Another way of keeping a cemetery "active" in order to ensure an income stream is by the introduction of crematoria into suitable cemeteries. Such a policy could not be of universal application; individual cemeteries would need to be carefully assessed for suitability for such a solution. Heritage conservation, health and local amenity are just some of the issues that would need to be evaluated before a decision could be made as to the appropriateness of this solution for any individual cemetery.

An "active", well-maintained historic cemetery will have a greater chance of engaging public interest in its heritage and recreational values, which in turn will help minimise the chance of vandalism.

The National Trust urges the State Government to seriously investigate the policies of re-use of burial plots and extend legislation to encourage re-sale of un-used burial rights. The introduction of crematoria into suitable cemeteries should also be investigated.

Yours Faithfully,



Jacqui Goddard

Conservation Director