

Submission
No 36

**INQUIRY INTO CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA
AMENDMENT REGULATION 2018**

Name: Mrs Neree Lambert

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Partially
Confidential

Our father was a World War 2 veteran who returned from serving as a Rear Gun Wireless Operator in the Pacific Region in the RAAF. Upon his return at just 20 years of age, he was already addicted to alcohol and "No Doze" type drugs. He told me that when they returned from a mission, they were supplied with beer to help them relax and unwind. However, it may only be a couple of hours before they were called from their beds to fly again. They were then handed little pills which were to help them stay awake and alert. His resistance was low when back in Australia and he habitually contracted pneumonia which wasn't helped by his serious addiction to cigarettes which he also developed in the Air Force. I have hand written files on medical events which were compiled over the years that followed as he became more unwell. Eventually, after a long battle with the Federal government, he was given DVA status of TPI - Totally And Permanently Incapacitated. He was in his early 30's and the father of 4 children. I was about 7 when we were told that Dad would probably not live to see us grow up. His kidneys were shot to pieces, he had angina and a plethora of other medical conditions. By his late 30's he looked like a little old man in his 80's. His hair turned white, the pigment died in his skin and he shuffled around looking like he was anorexic. Mum and Dad bought a double depth funeral plot in the Lawn Cemetery in Tamworth and he was buried there on June 24th 1966, after years of being ravaged by pain and illness. After his funeral, Mum discovered that they had not buried him to the depth he was supposed to be and the owners promised to rectify that. Unfortunately that didn't happen, so my mother purchased the plot next to his. The Cemetery changed hands years later and there was no record of that purchase even though my mother had the receipt. Therefore, she was forced to buy her plot for a third time. She was buried beside our father in 2013 and we also had a headstone made for our sister who died at 6 weeks old in Sydney in 1951. is buried somewhere in Rookwood Cemetery but we could not access her details as our Father did not leave instructions in his will for Mum to have access to 's burial details. As her Executor and Guardian, I tried to find our baby sister after Mum died but was told that our father would have to give permission for that to happen. And he'd been dead for a long time. The three of them are now nominally together for the first time since 1951 but if your proposal is made law, my father's grave will be dug up and his remains exhumed. s remembrance plaque will have nowhere to go and our Mother will be alone again. She has been without her baby daughter and husband for too long and when they are finally together, you want to destroy their final resting place. Do not steal what rightfully belongs to our family. This could open the floodgates of litigation

where your constituents may take a class action lawsuit to be reimbursed the comparable cost of the land, the caskets and the burial costs. This action is immoral and unethical and just another example of a total lack of compassion and moral fibre which sadly, is appearing more and more in Coalition policies and procedures. We are not silly and understand that Cemetery land is valuable real estate, however, how can you in all honesty steal sites that people have purchased? Neree Lambert