

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

**Name:** Mr Shannon Lyons

**Date Received:** 31 August 2018

---

To whom it may concern,

From what I understand is that graves will be dug up and reutilised after a period of 25 years, unless a fee is paid. This is abhorrent. This will divide communities. If one is not in a fit financial time in their lives, they will witness the desecration of their loved ones final resting places. Graves are a solemn place, that many find comfort and solace in, to help heal broken hearts and minds, to rekindle a connection with those parted, and to show dignity to loved ones that helped shape the families, communities and country that we cherish so dearly. Cemeteries are especially important in regional communities, and are an important intrinsic link to their very being and are cherished and held in high esteem, as they contain the forefathers and heroes of the their towns. Not only do they contain important figures and cherished loved ones of old, but one day will also contain important and cherished loved ones and figures in the future, and we ought not to deny those future Australians a link to their important historical past. They're important resting places of the people that matter to these communities, not only in life, but also in death. To have a limit of 25 years, or any other time frame, unless paying a monetary fee, placed on the resting places of our and communities loved ones, our heroes, our champions, our history, our fellow Australians, diminishes OUR value as modern Australians, and to deny future generations this vital link is a pitiful step backwards for our society. Cemeteries are revered by many in the community and are to be valued, and grave timeframes will destroy them and sever yet another community thread that makes our country special and I am disgusted that any government would entertain this unAustralian thought. May those who in power, who feel that these members of the community that in the future that when they pass, they shall be disturbed in death, may they hang their heads in shame, for not only are they disrespecting those that will have parted, but also they are deeply disrespecting the communities of which those same elected officials are meant to serve. A very sad and ugly day for this country. I'm disgusted.