

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

Name: Ms Margaret Manning

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Submission re Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment Regulation 2018
First the Poles and the Ports were sold ... now the Plots are to be sold? I do NOT agree with the proposed changes. Wrong, wrong, wrong on so many levels! Loved ones or family members have purchased a burial plot believing it to be their FINAL RESTING PLACE. Final resting places should be just that ... final ... forever ... not a money making grab to resell plots ... the thought is disgusting. It is disrespectful to the dead and family members left behind, to even consider exhumation of remains and then reselling the plot. The majority of families struggled to provide grave plots and headstones for their loved ones in the past. This was in the belief that it was a FINAL resting Place and that the expense was a one off. I find the thought of losing my family history heritage devastating. Some of my ancestors do not have headstones which was probably due to financial reasons, but I have been able to locate them and this has given me so much spiritually in connecting with them. For the family members that do have headstones it is heartbreaking to think they will just be removed like their life was nothing, let alone to think of how much they cost the family. I visit & help to maintain to at least 10 family graves (along with other family members), some of these graves date back to 1890 which is 128 years ago & makes them "Pioneer Family Graves"! These plots were paid for in full NOT rented or leased. Among these graves are those of my grandfather, baby sister, brother and mother – my grandfather's and sister's graves would have been sold again twice already, my brother's 7 years ago & my mother's coming up in 5 years if this amendment were to go ahead – absolutely distressing! These plots were purchased in good faith. Myself or other family members should not have to pay ongoing rental fees – it is not an expense that we can afford nor should we have to. I read that the remains are to be stored in an 'ossuary' – sounds absolutely disgusting & they would still have to be stored somewhere or are they to be returned to family? Is it planned that the ossuary will hold only one person's remains or more – totally abhorrent! I know that various religions are against these proposals due to their religious beliefs. Regardless of one's beliefs, it is important for ALL to be buried in a permanent resting place – it must apply for all. It is the duty of care of this country to protect it's heritage and the people both living and deceased. Have some respect, earn some respect and do not do this. Leave the dead alone.
Margaret Manning