

**Submission
No 113**

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

Name: Mr Peter Kotevich

Date Received: 7 September 2018

I make this submission on behalf of the Macedonian Orthodox Community that has a considerable number of gravesites at Rookwood. The majority of these gravesites are developed with substantial monuments, as is the custom of the community.

It has been highlighted to the Macedonian community, that the idea of renewing graves has been resurfacing. It is our understanding that this practice takes place in other states within Australia, however we are against it. We as a community can't understand the rationale behind this initiative.

It was clear, that you had a strong opportunity to tackle the shortage of land for burial space with Fernhill. We still to this day, can't fathom why Rookwood's proposal didn't get accepted. The Catholic Cemeteries received a piece of land, not long after Fernhill was no longer an option. Why was this the case, as it just doesn't make sense. The concept around Fernhill would have accommodated a number of faiths and denominations for years of burials to come.

The Macedonian community agree that buying a grave in perpetuity gives families security when purchasing a grave for their loved ones. It will be difficult to answer the many questions and uncertainties that we will receive from the community if grave renewal is enacted in the future.

We are informed that Rookwood has minimal land space to allocate to the Macedonian community, however is this really the answer? We are anticipating some form of consultation to take place from representatives from the government or CCNSW. We haven't had a chance to express how we are feeling, or to receive some guidance on how to deal with or educate the community on the changes they will be forced to face.

This topic is very sensitive, and should be dealt with very delicately.