

Submission
No 115

INQUIRY INTO CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA AMENDMENT REGULATION 2018

Organisation: Australia Chinese Workers Association

Date Received: 7 September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

There has been a lot of talk in the community that has really caused a lot of angst and uncertainty. There has been a rumour going around that CCNSW and the government are looking to support the implementation of Renewable Interments. It is clear that the burial practices and needs of the community have not been a priority or concern for the government when pushing for this act to be amended.

Is this the government's answer to resolve the issue of diminishing land space for all the different communities within the Sydney and Western Sydney region?

Death is such a spiritual and important element to our cultural beliefs. The Chinese community are very superstitious and are very sacred towards its traditions for the afterlife. We are very against the enactment of Renewable interments, as in the Buddhist and Chinese community we are not to disturb the body once it has been laid to rest.

Renewable interments will scare the Chinese community for its burial practices. Additionally, Feng Shui is an important element in our culture, and renewing the grave will damage this vital part of who we are and what we believe in. Not only is the model and practice one that will be protested against, but financially it will be very hard for our future generations. Affordability should always be a priority with the government.

I have spoken to colleagues as well as other Chinese community groups, and they said there has been no consultation, or announcement made by the Government to understand the concerns or impact such an act will have on the Chinese Community. Would you be able to shed some light on what initiated this way of thinking and what you are trying to achieve?

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Tiffany Ho
Director of Public Relation
Australia Chinese Workers Association(ACWA)