

**Submission  
No 117**

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

**Name:** Mrs Joan Limon  
**Date Received:** 7 September 2018

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## SUBMISSION

I am extremely upset that the NSW government would even consider reusing graves. A grave site is a sacred site to the family whose love ones were laid to rest there. It should remain theirs in perpetuity.

As someone who has had family members in this country since 1790, the Second Fleet, I am horrified that this is on the agenda. Please leave our dead to rest in peace. Introducing fees for future generations to keep the graves intact is untenable. I have direct family members buried in this country for the past 209 years. Despite their immense value to me, I cannot possibly pay to keep all these graves intact.

One of my ancestors was buried where Central Railway now stands. At the time of removal the headstones were just placed in a heap where they were allowed to deteriorate until nothing was left. This was completely disrespectful to those people who were pioneers of this country.

As someone who has researched my family history over many decades, I know what a valuable tool gravestones are in locating ancestors and proving relationships. They are the last tangible link to our ancestors and are a place we can go to feel close to them, to remember their contribution to all our lives.

If the dead of the First Nation of this country are to be respected, as they should, so should the dead of all our nation's people. Do not deny our culture. Grave-robbing should not be allowed in any circumstance. My culture and the culture of those who settled this country is under threat, make no mistake about that.

In the UK I was able to visit graves of ancestors who died centuries ago. That was a very special feeling, something you are considering denying future generations of Australians.

At the time of burial of a loved one, the family understood that this was to be their final resting place forever. Their burial plot was purchased, not rented.

Just the thought of my dear Dad's remains being dug up and being disposed of who knows where, brings me to despair. My Dad, uncles, Grandfather and Grand Uncles, fought for this country. They earned the right to rest in peace.

I do not agree to these changes. Please leave our family members to rest in peace. They have earned the right to that.