

Submission  
No 119

## INQUIRY INTO CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA AMENDMENT REGULATION 2018

**Organisation:** SERBIAN DIASPORA PARLIAMENT TO THE REPUBLIC  
OF SERBIA

**Date Received:** 7 September 2018

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## **SERBIAN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE FOR ANZ IN DIASPORA PARLIAMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

I am writing to express our concerns on behalf of the Serbian Community, in relation to discussions that are being had around the renewal of graves and the timeframe around grave ownership. It is important for the government and CCNSW to understand that this structure will go against our culture and religious values. We believe that we need to offer respect and empathy around the burial of our loved ones. It will not be a notion that will be approved by our culture.

The Serbian community have not been given an opportunity to oppose this practice. Consultation has not been provided on this topic, by CCNSW or representatives from the Government.

Isn't it reasonable to suggest, that if you are going to introduce a change, especially one of this nature, you would contact the people who will be affected the most? It is important that we received a say in this proposal. Rookwood Cemetery had consulted with us about their initiative with Fernhill, to overcome shortage of land support. We were in support of this, however it had been dismissed by higher powers. It is concerning to think, that we need to go to the extreme of placing extra financial and emotional burden on our community, in order to see the urgency behind finding new land.

I would like to understand, what consultation process you will be putting in place to ensure our community, and all other communities for that matter, have had a voice in this decision. Will CCNSW be in support of all their stakeholders, if communities are united in the position against this?

Yours sincerely  
Serbian Community Representative for ANZ in  
Diaspora Parliament to The Republic of Serbia