

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 2 September 2018

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Partially  
Confidential

I wish to express my deep concern over the policy change that states graves will be exhumed after 25 years. I am strongly opposed to this action and quite shocked that this was pushed through parliament in such a manner.

For multiple reasons this policy is morally and ethically wrong, however I will give you my story in the hope that you may appreciate the importance of these memorials to people. At 10 years of age my Aunty was hit and killed by a train in front of my grandmother at a level crossing. This was around 1940. She was buried at Woronora although the family were too poor to afford a headstone. 50 years later, my cousin created a small memorial plaque for her and 78 years later I visit her grave as does her last remaining sister. Lorna's death was such a painful experience that it really effected the thinking of the whole family. That changed their lives forever to the extent that the repercussions still can be felt. There have been plenty of times in my life where I could not have afforded to pay the ongoing costs of maintaining her grave had such a short sighted legislation been in place. It is important for a sense of remembering those loved once lost, respect for those passed, healing for family members and continuity of life. Had this legislation been in place I would in all likelihood not be able to take the last remaining sister to see her little sisters grave, or her mum and dad, or her brothers, or my great grandparents. At 80 this is important to her and it is important to me regardless of age. Please do not go ahead with this unethical legislation designed only for those who can 'afford' it and which disregards the human rights of those who can't afford it to pay respects to those lost.