

# Ministerial Advisory Committee for Cemeteries and Crematoria

A Ministerial Advisory Council for Cemeteries and Crematoria (the Committee) has been established to provide advice to the Minister for Health on measures to strengthen strategic planning and governance across all cemetery trusts, and improve the sustainability and efficiency of the sector, to better meet the needs of the Victorian community.

The Committee is a Group C organisation under the *Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines for Victorian Government Boards, Statutory Bodies and Advisory Committees* (July 2011) (the guidelines). The Committee brings together a board with a collective capacity in corporate governance, finance, law, business management, community services, land planning, environmental management and industry.

## Role of the Committee

The Committee will provide independent advice to the Minister on sector wide strategic planning, governance and matters relating to the sustainability and efficiency of the sector, with a particular focus on providing the Minister with recommendations on:

- The development of a strategic framework for the cemeteries and crematoria sector to ensure that planning, investment and decision making is relevant to the needs of the community and provides a sustainable base for the future.
- Strategies for financial, governance and operational systems to ensure cemetery trust funds and assets are managed efficiently and transparently.
- Strategies to ensure burial needs are met now and in the future.
- Options to address sustainability issues for cemeteries and crematoria and develop strategies to improve the delivery of services.
- Undertake other roles and responsibilities related to the cemeteries and crematoria sector that may be requested by the Minister.

## Membership of the Committee

### Chairperson

**Chairperson:** Professor Anona Armstrong, Director of Research and Research Training at the College of Law & Justice at Victoria University.

### Members

The following members have been appointed:

Mr Frank de Groot	President, Cemeteries and Crematoria Association Victoria Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Operations Manager Geelong Cemeteries Trust Representative on the Funeral Industry roundtable Experience in the management of cemeteries and crematoria Geelong Cemetery Trust Chairperson Business Owner
Mr Lyndon Smith	Brings expertise in business management and experience in local government

Ms Jane Grover	Chief Operating Officer, Southern Metro Cemetery Trust Experience in business and change management, communications
Mr Kevin Murnane	Business Manager Ballarat Cemetery Trust Experience in Management of cemeteries and crematoria, Finance and business management
Mr Fred Grossman	General Manager, Melbourne Chevra Kadisha Cemetery Trust Held senior management roles, Management of cemeteries and crematoria Corporate governance and management
Ms Christine Thompson	Member of the Bendigo Cemetery Trust and the Gisborne Cemetery Trust Honorary Treasurer, Cemeteries and Crematoria Association Victoria Cemetery trust and small business experience
Mr David Jones	Chairperson the Echuca Cemetery Trust 45 years' experience in the Monumental Industry Former Councillor Shire of Deakin and former member Victorian Consumer Affairs Committee
Ms Anne Gallacher	Member of the Stuart Mill Cemetery Trust Expertise in education
Mr Andrew Pinder	Funeral Director and representative on Consumer Affairs Victoria Funeral Industry Roundtable Expertise in business, law and management.
Mr David Weatherill	25 years' experience in cemetery research including history and legislation Brings expertise in research and experience in higher education
Mr Russell Allison	Director of a specialised Cemetery and Funeral Consultancy Previously Chief Executive Officer, Springvale Cemetery Previous experience in funeral directors
Ms Diane Rule	Member of the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust Expertise in policy development, business and governance.
Ms Vicki Coltman	Councillor, City of Ballarat Senior management experience within business and governance.

## Meetings

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 18 December 2013. Updates on the Committees work will be provided on this web page on a regular basis.