

Australian Capital Territory

Cemeteries and Crematoria (Fees) Determination 2023 (No 1)

Disallowable Instrument DI2023-158

made under the

Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020, s 128 (Determination of fees)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020* (the Act) regulates the operation of cemeteries and crematoria. Section 128 of the Act provides the Minister with the power to determine fees for the purposes of the Act.

Public cemeteries and crematoria are managed by the Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority (the Authority). The Authority is required to operate on a sound financial basis.

The determination revokes the *Cemeteries and Crematoria (Fees) Determination 2022 (No 1)* (DI2022-171).

This determination increases fees by approximately 3.75% for the majority of burial services provided for Wage Price Index (WPI).

In previous years, the Authority has permitted the purchase of memorial plaques as part of the overall cost of a burial or ashes interment allotment. Due to the length of time between the purchase of an allotment and the interment, in some cases more than a decade, it is no longer practicable to include the payment of a plaque fee in advance of the actual ordering of the plaque. An increase in the proportion of plaques that were pre-paid, where the price paid at the time of purchase no longer covers the actual production cost of the plaque many years later, resulting in a negative financial outcome. Plaque fees will increase by approximately 8.75% to cover 3.75% WPI and a 5% increase in plaque supplier production costs.

Fees have been developed for the Gungahlin Cemetery Ashes Memorialisation Garden (a new ashes garden opening in May 2024), and for the interment of ashes into crypts at the Woden Mausoleum.

Fees for cremation services will increase by approximately 3.75%. A discount in cremation fees is now offered to funeral directors who meet the requirements of early delivery on weekdays and for funeral directors who are based interstate.

Fees have been developed for the use of streaming services for cremation services, and for the collection of ashes outside of regular business hours.

The Authority will continue with the handling fees payment to funeral directors for cemetery services including cremations.

All fees are rounded for cash handling purposes.

The determination takes effect on 1 July 2023.