

Annual Operator Activity Survey - 2016/17

as at 30 June 2017

1. Whole of NSW, burial and cremation volumes

Service type	No. of services	Percentage
Total number of burials	18415	33.4%
Total number of cremations	36704	66.6%
Total number of services	55119	100%

2. Whole of NSW, number of cemetery operators

Type of Operator	No. of operators
Cemetery operators	229
Crematoria operators	41
	270

3. Whole of NSW, number of cemeteries

Cemeteries Status	No. of facilities
Operational cemeteries	922
Closed cemeteries	327
	1249

4. Whole of NSW, cemeteries and crematoria by operator sector

Operator sector	No. of Cemeteries (Operational & Closed)	% of Total Cemeteries	No. of Cemeteries (Operational)	% of Operational Cemeteries	No. of Cemeteries (Closed)	% of Closed Cemeteries	No. of Crematoria	% of Crematoria
Local Government	998	81%	710	77%	288	88%	8	15%
Crown	20	2%	13	1%	7	2%	4	8%
Private	30	2%	29	3%	1	0.3%	41	77%
Church	189	14%	159	17%	30	9%	0	0
Community	7	1%	11	1%	1	0%	0	0
	1244	100%	922	100%	327	100%	53	100%

5. Metropolitan Sydney, cemeteries and crematoria by operator sector

Operator sector	No. of Cemeteries (Operational & Closed)	% of Total Cemeteries	No. of Cemeteries (Operational)	% of Operational Cemeteries	No. of Cemeteries (Closed)	% of Closed Cemeteries	No. of Crematoria	% of Crematoria
Local Government	57	48%	37	43%	20	61%	0	0%
Crown	10	8%	10	11%	0	0%	4	31%
Private	8	7%	8	9%	0	0%	9	69%
Church	44	37%	31	36%	13	39%	0	0
Community	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0
	120	100%	87	100%	33	100%	13	100%

6. Whole of NSW, summary burial and cremation activity

Planning Region	No. of burials	No. of cremations	No. of services	Cremation rate	No. of second or subsequent burials	Grave occupancy rate	No. of ash interments or scatterings	Ash disposition rate
Whole of NSW	18415	36704	55119	66.6%	4894	1.43	12925	35.21%
Metropolitan Sydney	9294	17253	26547	65.0%	2615	1.39	6527	37.83%
Rural and Regional NSW*	9121	19451	28572	68.1%	2279	1.46	5320	27.35%
Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra	2678	10213	12891	79.2%	620	1.71	3438	33.66%

* ie, all planning regions other than Metropolitan Sydney, including Central Coast, Far West, Hunter, Illawarra.

7. Whole of NSW, burials and cremations by planning region

Planning Region	No. of cemeteries	No. of burials	% of NSW burials	No. of crematoria	No. of Cremations	Cremation rate %	% of NSW cremations	No. of services (burials and cremations)	% of NSW services
Central Coast	16	445	2.4%	2	2591	85.3%	7.1%	3036	5.5%
Far West	38	273	1.5%	2	168	38.1%	0.5%	441	0.8%
Hunter	173	1315	7.1%	6	5154	79.7%	14.0%	6469	11.7%
Illawarra	24	918	5.0%	3	2468	72.9%	6.7%	3386	6.1%
Metropolitan Sydney	87	9294	50.5%	13	17253	65.0%	47.0%	26547	48.2%
Riverina Murray	117	1678	9.1%	5	2595	60.7%	7.1%	4273	7.8%
New England - North West	98	913	5.0%	4	733	44.5%	2.0%	1646	3.0%
North Coast	106	1248	6.8%	10	3707	74.8%	10.1%	4955	9.0%
Central West & Orana	152	1429	7.8%	5	1100	43.5%	3.0%	2529	4.6%
South East & Tablelands	113	902	4.9%	3	935	50.9%	2.5%	1837	3.3%
	924	18415	100%	53	36704	66.6%	100.0%	55119	100%

8. Metropolitan Sydney, burials and cremations by Sydney sub-region

Metropolitan Sydney District	No. of cemeteries	No. of burials	% of Sydney burials	No. of crematoria	No. of Cremations	Cremation rate %	% of Sydney cremations	No. of services (burials and cremations)	% of total Sydney services
Central	7	853	9.2%	1	1195	58.3%	6.9%	2048	7.7%
West Central	15	4769	51.3%	4	5079	51.6%	29.4%	9848	37.1%
North	13	1518	16.3%	2	5266	77.6%	30.5%	6784	25.6%
West	29	388	4.2%	2	1223	75.9%	7.1%	1611	6.1%
South West	22	1188	12.8%	2	2156	64.5%	12.5%	3344	12.6%
South	1	577	6.2%	2	2334	80.2%	13.5%	2911	11.0%
	87	9293	100%	13	17253	65.0%		26546	100%

9. Whole of NSW, burials by type and cemetery operator sector

Operator sector	No. of interments of bodily remains in new perpetual interment sites	No. of interments of bodily remains in perpetual interment sites (one or more previous interments)	No. of interments of bodily remains in interment sites under renewable rights terms	Total No. of interments	% of total interments	2nd or subsequent burials as a % of total interments	Grave occupancy rate*
Local Government	6318	2299	62	8679	47.1%	12.5%	1.37
Crown	4314	2411	6	6731	36.6%	13.1%	1.56
Private	2685	164	0	2849	15.5%	0.9%	1.06
Church	89	20	0	109	0.6%	0.1%	1.22
Community	47	0	0	47	0.3%	0.0%	1.00
	13453	4894	68	18415	100%	26.2%	1.37

* Grave occupancy rate is an inferred ongoing rate for the no. of interments per grave plot, at the current rate of second interment. The figure is derived by dividing the number of burials completed in the term by the number of burials in new plots completed for the term. The figures must be used with caution, as at the cemetery-specific level, as a cemetery facility nears exhaustion of capacity, only second or subsequent interments may be completed, and the apparent occupancy rate may exceed 2 per grave. CCNSW considers that grave occupancy rate is of value at the regional level, where variations between facilities net out, and where facility-specific anomalies may be excluded from analysis. In specific cases where a single facility volume predominates, the apparent rate of grave occupancy may be deemed unreliable.

10. Metropolitan Sydney, burials by type and cemetery operator sector

Operator sector	No. of interments of bodily remains in new perpetual interment sites	No. of interments of bodily remains in perpetual interment sites one or more previous interments	No. of interments of bodily remains in interment sites under renewable rights terms	Total No. of interments	% of total interments	2nd or subsequent burials as a % of total interments	Grave occupancy rate*
Local Government	579	259	62	900	10%	2.8%	1.55
Crown	4167	2324	6	6497	70%	25.0%	1.56
Private	1785	21	0	1806	19%	0.2%	1.01
Church	40	11	0	51	1%	0.1%	1.28
Community	39	0	0	39	0%	0.0%	1.00
	6610	2615	68	9293	100%	28.1%	1.41

11. Whole of NSW, cremations and ash interments by crematoria operator sector

Operator sector	No. of cremations of bodily remains	% of total cremations	No. of interments of cremated remains*	No. of cremated remains scattered within grounds	No. of ash dispositions**	Ash disposition rate
Local Government	3254	9.6%	3525	60	3585	110.2%
Crown	5359	14.6%	3382	114	3496	65.2%
Private	28091	75.8%	4438	335	4773	17.0%
Church	0	0.0%	528	17	545	0.0%
	36704	100%	11873	526	12399	33.8%

* Generally below ground, or in a niche wall or columbarium** ie, ashes interred or scattered within a cemetery

12. Whole of NSW, burials and cremations by operator sector

Operator sector	No. of Burials	% of NSW burials	No. of Cremations	% of NSW cremations	Total No. of services	% of NSW total services
Local Government	8679	47.1%	3254	8.9%	11933	21.6%
Crown	6731	36.6%	5359	14.6%	12090	21.9%
Private	2849	15.5%	28091	76.5%	30940	56.1%
Community	156	0.8%	0 N/A		156 N/A	
	18415	100%	36704	100%	55119	100%

13. Metropolitan Sydney, burials and cremations by operator sector

Operator sector	No. of Burials	% of Sydney burials	No. of Cremations	% of Sydney cremations	Total No. of services	% of total Sydney services
Local Government	900	9.7%	0	N/A	900	3.4%
Crown	6497	69.9%	5359	31%	11856	44.7%
Private	1806	19.4%	11894	69%	13700	51.6%
Church	51	0.5%	0	N/A	51	0.2%
Community	39	0.4%	0	N/A	39	0.1%
	9293	100%	17253	100%	26546	100%

14. Whole of NSW, Local Government operated cemeteries, activity levels

LG Cemeteries	No. of facilities
>10 burials per year	188
<10 burials per year	525
Closed	286
Average burials per cemetery	8.7