

Annual Operator Activity Survey - 2019/20
As at 30 June 2020
1. Whole of NSW, burial and cremation volumes

Service type	No. of services	Percentage
Total number of burials*	17841	30.8%
Total number of cremations*	40081	69.2%
Total number of services	57922	100%

* Includes destitute burials and cremations

2. Whole of NSW, number of cemetery operators

Type of Operator	No. of operators
Cemetery operators	358
Crematoria operators	41
	399

3. Whole of NSW, number of cemeteries

Cemeteries Status	No. of facilities
Operational cemeteries	1019
Closed cemeteries	416
Under development	1
	1436

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

Operator sector	No. of cemeteries (operational & closed)	% of total cemeteries	No. of cemeteries (operational)	% of operational cemeteries	No. of cemeteries (closed or inactive)	% of closed cemeteries	No. of crematoria (operational & closed)	% of crematoria	No. of cemetery operators	No. of crematoria operators	No. of operators undertaking both cemetery and crematoria operations
Local Government	1024	71%	687	67%	337	81%	5	9%	112	5	5
Crown	20	1%	13	1%	7	2%	4	7%	11	3	3
Private	34	2%	31	3%	3	1%	49	84%	21	33	16
Church	341	24%	275	27%	66	16%	0	0%	197	0	0
Community & Other	17	1%	12	1%	5	1%	0	0%	17	0	0
	1436	100%	1018	100%	418	100%	58	100%	358	41	24

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	55	32.9%	34	27%	21	50%	0	0%
Crown	9	5.4%	9	7%	0	0%	4	31%
Private	7	4.2%	7	6%	0	0%	9	69%
Church	90	53.9%	73	58%	17	40%	0	0
Community & Other	6	3.6%	2	2%	4	10%	0	0
	167	100%	125	100%	42	100%	13	100%

6. Whole of NSW, summary burial and cremation activity

Planning Region	No. of burials (includes destitute)	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	17841	40081	57922	69.2%	4856	1.37	10789	26.92%
Metropolitan Sydney	9127	18131	27258	66.5%	2427	1.36	6028	33.25%
Rural and Regional NSW*	5884	11976	17860	67.1%	1578	1.37	2185	18.24%
Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra	2830	9974	12804	77.9%	851	1.43	2576	25.83%

* ie, all planning regions other than Metropolitan Sydney, including Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra-Shoalhaven

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

Planning Region	No. of cemeteries (operational)	No. of burials (includes destitute)	% of NSW burials	No. of crematoria (operational)	No. of cremations (includes destitute)	Cremation rate %	% of NSW cremations	No. of services (burials and cremations)	% of NSW services
Central Coast	17	532	3.0%	2	2427	82.0%	6.1%	2959	5.1%
Central West and Orana	159	1330	7.5%	5	1295	49.3%	3.2%	2625	4.5%
Far West	38	260	1.5%	3	252	49.2%	0.6%	512	0.9%
Hunter	185	1374	7.7%	6	5201	79.1%	13.0%	6575	11.4%
Illawarra-Shoalhaven	35	924	5.2%	5	2346	71.7%	5.9%	3270	5.6%
Metropolitan Sydney	129	9127	51.2%	13	18131	66.5%	45.2%	27258	47.1%
New England North West	97	853	4.8%	4	790	48.1%	2.0%	1643	2.8%
North Coast	104	1039	5.8%	11	4068	79.7%	10.1%	5107	8.8%
Riverina-Murray	120	1505	8.4%	8	4670	75.6%	11.7%	6175	10.7%
South East and Tablelands	142	897	5.0%	3	901	50.1%	2.2%	1798	3.1%
	1026	17841	100%	60	40081	N/A	100%	57922	100%

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

Metropolitan Sydney District	No. of cemeteries (operational)	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	18	762	8.3%	1	1118	59.5%	6.2%	1880	6.9%
West Central	19	4646	50.9%	4	5157	52.6%	28.4%	9803	36.0%
North	17	1520	16.7%	2	5174	77.3%	28.5%	6694	24.6%
West	37	320	3.5%	2	1005	75.8%	5.5%	1325	4.9%
South West	32	1350	14.8%	2	3346	71.3%	18.5%	4696	17.2%
South	6	529	5.8%	2	2331	81.5%	12.9%	2860	10.5%
	129	9127	100%	13	18131	66.5%	100%	27258	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	No. of destitute burials	Total No. of interments	% of total interments	2nd or subsequent burials as a % of total interments	Grave occupancy rate*
Local Government	5606	2286	27	25	7944	44.6%	12.8%	1.42
Crown	4117	2159	0	87	6363	35.7%	12.1%	1.55
Private	2797	362	4	0	3163	17.8%	2.0%	1.13
Church	173	43	0	0	216	1.2%	0.2%	1.25
Community	121	6	0	0	127	0.7%	0.0%	1.05
	12814	4856	31	112	17813	100%	27.3%	1.39

* 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 destitute burials	Total No. of interments	% of total interments	2nd or subsequent burials as a % of total interments	Grave occupancy rate*
Local Government	497	264	27	2	790	8.7%	2.9%	1.59
Crown	3967	2087	0	86	6140	67%	22.9%	1.55
Private	1998	56	4	0	2058	22.5%	0.6%	1.03
Church	56	20	0	0	76	0.8%	0.2%	1.36
Community	63	0	0	0	63	0.7%	0.0%	1.00
	6581	2427	31	88	9127	100%	26.6%	1.39

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	794	44.6%	1528	3.8%	9472	16.4%
Crown	6363	35.7%	5426	13.5%	11789	20.4%
Private	3163	17.8%	33127	82.7%	36290	62.7%
Church	216	1%	0	N/A	216	0.4%
Community	127	0.7%	0	N/A	127	0.2%
	17813	100%	40081	100%	57894	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	790	8.7%	0	N/A	790	2.9%
Crown	6140	67.3%	5426	30%	11566	42.4%
Private	2058	22.5%	12705	70%	14763	54.2%
Church	76	0.8%	0	N/A	76	0.3%
Community	63	0.7%	0	N/A	63	0.2%
	9127	100%	18131	100%	27258	100%

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

LG Cemeteries	No. of facilities
>10 burials per year	177
<10 burials per year	510
Closed	337
Total LG cemeteries in NSW	1024
Average burials per cemetery	5.5