

Annual Operator Activity Survey - 2020/21 as at 30 June 2021

1. Whole of NSW, burial and cremation volumes

Service type	No. of services	Percentage
Total number of burials*	17359	29.5%
Total number of cremations**	41448	70.5%
Total number of services	58807	100%

* Burials refers to interment of bodily remains

** Cremations refers to cremated bodily remains

1A. Whole of NSW, burial, cremation & interred cremated remain volumes

Service type	No. of services	Percentage
Total number of burials*	17359	24.2%
Total number of cremations**	41448	57.8%
Total number of interred cremations	12939	18.0%
Total number of services	71746	100%

* Burials refers to interment of bodily remains

** Cremations refers to cremated bodily remains

2. Whole of NSW, number of cemetery operators

Type of Operator	No. of operators
Cemetery operators	380
Crematoria operators	20
Cemetery & crematoria	23
	423

3. Whole of NSW, number of cemeteries

Cemeteries Status	No. of facilities
Active cemeteries	1033
Inactive cemeteries	437
Crematoria	59
	1529

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

Operator sector	No. of cemeteries (active & inactive)	% of total cemeteries	No. of cemeteries (active)	% of active cemeteries	No. of cemeteries (inactive)	% of inactive cemeteries	No. of crematoria (active)	% of crematoria	Total no. of facilities (cemeteries & crematoria)	No. of cemetery only operators	No. of crematoria only operators	No. of operators undertaking both cemetery & crematoria operations
Local Government	1025	70%	691	67%	334	76%	5	8%	1030	111	0	5
Crown	20	1%	13	1%	7	2%	4	7%	24	11	0	3
Private	34	2%	32	3%	2	1%	50	85%	84	23	20	15
Church	371	25%	285	28%	86	20%	0	0%	371	216	0	0
Community & Other	20	1%	12	1%	8	2%	0	0%	20	19	0	0
	1470	100%	1033	100%	437	100%	59	100%	1529	380	20	23

5. Metropolitan Sydney, cemeteries and crematoria by operator sector

Operator sector	No. of cemeteries (active & inactive)	% of total cemeteries	No. of cemeteries (active)	% of active cemeteries	No. of cemeteries (inactive)	% of inactive cemeteries	No. of crematoria	% of crematoria
Local Government	55	32.5%	33	26%	22	48%	0	0%
Crown	9	5.3%	9	7%	0	0%	4	31%
Private	8	4.7%	7	6%	1	2%	9	69%
Church	91	53.8%	71	59%	20	42%	0	0
Community & Other	6	3.6%	2	2%	4	8%	0	0
	169	100%	122	100%	47	100%	13	100%

6. Whole of NSW, summary burial and cremation activity

Planning Region	No. of burials	No. of cremations	No. of interments of burials & cremations	Cremation rate	No. of second or subsequent interment of burials	Grave occupancy rate*	No. of cremations or scatterings	Cremation disposition rate
Whole of NSW	17359	41448	58807	70.5%	4623	1.36	12933	31.20%
Metropolitan Sydney	9067	18451	27518	67.1%	2395	1.36	6795	36.83%
Rural and Regional NSW*	5620	12521	18141	69.0%	1591	1.39	2707	21.62%
Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra	2672	10476	13148	79.7%	637	1.31	3431	32.75%

* Burials refers to interment of bodily remains and cremations refers to cremated bodily remains

* 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 (Active)	No. of cemeteries (Inactive)	No. of cemeteries (Active & Inactive)	No. of burials*	% of NSW burials	No. of crematoria	No. of cremations*	Cremation rate %	% of NSW cremations	No. of services (burials & cremations)	% of total NSW services (burials & cremations)	No of interments of cremated remains	No. of cremated remains scattered within grounds	Total no. of interment of cremated remains	Total no. of all NSW services (burials, cremations & ash interments)	% of total no. of all NSW services (burials, cremations & ash interments)
Central Coast	20	3	23	372	2.1%	2	2358	86.4%	5.7%	2730	4.6%	760	30	790	3520	4.9%
Central West and Orana	163	85	248	1189	6.8%	5	1303	52.3%	3.1%	2492	4.2%	583	12	595	3087	4.3%
Far West	42	28	70	319	1.8%	2	275	46.3%	0.7%	594	1.0%	162	1	163	757	1.1%
Hunter	183	49	232	1457	8.4%	6	5281	78.4%	12.7%	6738	11.5%	1643	42	1685	8423	11.7%
Illawarra-Shoalhaven	34	28	62	843	4.9%	4	2837	77.1%	6.8%	3680	6.3%	937	25	962	4642	6.5%
Metropolitan Sydney	122	47	169	9067	52.2%	13	18451	67.1%	44.5%	27518	46.8%	6470	325	6795	34313	47.8%
New England North West	97	55	152	824	4.7%	4	812	49.6%	2.0%	1636	2.8%	289	0	289	1925	2.7%
North Coast	99	35	134	1094	6.3%	11	4096	78.9%	9.9%	5190	8.8%	869	36	905	6095	8.5%
Riverina-Murray	120	39	159	1333	7.7%	9	5077	79.2%	12.2%	6410	10.9%	389	3	392	6802	9.5%
South East and Tablelands	153	68	221	861	5.0%	3	958	52.7%	2.3%	1819	3.1%	343	20	363	2182	3.0%
	1033	437	1470	17359	100%	59	41448	N/A	100%	58807	100%	12445	494	12939	71746	100%

* Burials refers to interment of bodily remains, cremations refers to cremated bodily remains, ash interments refers to the interment of cremated bodily remains

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

Metropolitan Sydney District	No. of cemeteries (Active)	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	17	657	7.2%	1	1578	70.6%	8.6%	2235	8.1%
West Central	17	4672	51.5%	4	5031	51.8%	27.3%	9703	35.3%
North	17	1397	15.4%	2	5198	78.8%	28.2%	6595	24.0%
West	34	318	3.5%	2	1467	82.2%	8.0%	1785	6.5%
South West	32	1347	14.9%	2	3665	73.1%	19.9%	5012	18.2%
South	5	676	7.5%	2	1512	69.1%	8.2%	2188	8.0%
	122	9067	100%	13	18451	67.1%	100%	27518	100%

* includes bodily interments and bodily cremated remains

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 an existing 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	5541	2298	26	16	7881	45.4%	13.2%	1.42
Crown	4102	2130	0	52	6284	36.2%	12.3%	1.53
Private	2690	140	11	2	2843	16.4%	0.8%	1.06
Church	176	45	3	0	224	1.3%	0.3%	1.27
Community & Other	116	10	0	1	127	0.7%	0.1%	1.09
	12625	4623	40	71	17359	100%	26.6%	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 destitute burials	Total No. of interments	% of total interments	2nd or subsequent burials as a % of total interments	Grave occupancy rate*
Local Government	484	273	26	2	785	8.7%	3.0%	1.62
Crown	3985	2057	0	52	6094	67%	22.7%	1.53
Private	1996	53	11	2	2062	22.7%	0.6%	1.03
Church	53	11	0	0	64	0.7%	0.1%	1.21
Community & Other	60	1	0	1	62	0.7%	0.0%	1.03
	6578	2395	37	57	9067	100%	26.4%	1.38

11. Whole of NSW, bodily cremated remains and interment of bodily cremated remains by crematoria operator sector

Operator sector	No. of cremations of bodily remains	No. of (destitute) cremations of bodily remains	Total 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	2058	0	2058	5.0%	3321	54	3375	164.0%
Crown	5534	1	5535	13.4%	2885	111	2996	54.1%
Private	33594	261	33855	81.7%	5671	283	5954	17.6%
Church	0	0	0	0%	551	46	597	0.0%
Community & Other	0	0	0	0%	17	0	17	0.0%
	41186	262	41448	100%	12445	494	12939	31.3%

* Burials refers to interment of bodily remains, cremations refers to cremated bodily remains, ash interments refers to the interment of cremated bodily remains

** 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 total no. of services (burials & cremations)	Total no. of ash dispositions**	Total no. of services including ash interments	% of NSW total services*
Local Government	7881	45.4%	2058	5.0%	9939	16.9%	3375	13314	18.6%
Crown	6284	36.2%	5535	13.4%	11819	20.1%	2996	14815	20.7%
Private	2843	16.4%	33855	81.7%	36698	62.4%	5954	42652	59.5%
Church	224	1%	0	N/A	224	0.4%	569	793	1.1%
Community & Other	127	0.7%	0	N/A	127	0.2%	17	144	0.2%
	17359	100%	41448	100%	58807	100%	12911	71718	100%

* includes, bodily interments, cremated bodily interments and cremations

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 burial & cremation Sydney services
Local Government	785	8.7%	0	N/A	785	2.9%
Crown	6094	67.2%	5535	30%	11629	42.3%
Private	2062	22.7%	12916	70%	14978	54.4%
Church	64	0.7%	0	N/A	64	0.2%
Community & Other	62	0.7%	0	N/A	62	0.2%
	9067	100%	18451	100%	27518	100%

14. Whole of NSW, operated cemeteries, activity levels by sector

Cemeteries	LG no. of facilities	Crown no. of facilities	Private no. of facilities	Church no. of facilities	Community & other no. of facilities	LG % of facilities	Crown % of facilities	Private % of facilities	Church % of facilities	Community & other % of facilities
>10 burials per year More	183	9	15	4	2	17.9%	45.0%	44.1%	1.1%	10.0%
<10 burials per year	508	4	17	281	10	49.5%	20.0%	50.0%	75.7%	50.0%
Inactive	334	7	2	86	8	32.7%	35.0%	5.9%	23.2%	40.0%
Total no. of burials	7881	6284	2843	224	127	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total no. of cemeteries in NSW	1025	20	34	371	20	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Average no. of burials per cemetery by sector	LG	Crown	Private	Church	Community & other
	7.7	314.2	83.6	0.6	6.4