



Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW

Updated October 2023

Annual Operator Activity Survey - 2021 / 2022

OPERATORS

1. Operators by operator type, region and sector

Operator sector	TOTAL		OPERATORS OF CEMETERIES ONLY		OPERATORS OF CREMATORIA ONLY		OPERATORS WHO HAVE BOTH CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA	
	Total no. of all operators of cemeteries and crematoria	% of total number of all operators of cemeteries and crematoria	No. of operators of cemeteries only	% of operators of cemeteries only	No. of operators of crematoria only	% of operator of crematoria only	No. of operators who operate both cemeteries and crematoria	% of operators who operate both cemeteries and crematoria
Whole of NSW	413	100%	368	100%	19	100%	26	100%
Local Government	109	26%	104	28%	0	0%	5	19%
Crown	11	3%	8	2%	0	0%	3	12%
Private	48	12%	11	3%	19	100%	18	69%
Church	224	54%	224	61%	0	0%	0	0%
Community & Other	21	5%	21	6%	0	0%	0	0%
Metropolitan Sydney¹	117	100%	109	100%	2	100%	6	100%
Local Government	14	12%	14	13%	0	0%	0	0%
Crown	4	3%	1	1%	0	0%	3	50%
Private	8	7%	3	3%	2	100%	3	50%
Church	86	74%	86	79%	0	0%	0	0%
Community & Other	5	4%	5	5%	0	0%	0	0%
Rural and Regional NSW¹	300	100%	261	100%	17	100%	22	100%
Local Government	95	32%	90	34%	0	0%	5	23%
Crown	8	3%	7	3%	0	0%	1	5%
Private	41	14%	8	3%	17	100%	16	73%
Church	140	47%	140	54%	0	0%	0	0%
Community & Other	16	5%	16	6%	0	0%	0	0%

¹ Note some operators are in both Metropolitan Sydney and Rural and Regional NSW and will be recorded under both but will only be counted once for the Whole of NSW totals

FACILITIES

2. Facilities by region and operator type

Facilities operator sector	TOTAL		CEMETERIES						CREMATORIA	
	Total no. of facilities (cemeteries & crematoria)	% of total number of facilities (cemeteries & crematoria)	No. of all cemeteries (active & inactive)	% of all cemeteries (active & inactive)	No. of active cemeteries	% of active cemeteries	No. of inactive cemeteries	% of inactive cemeteries	No. of crematoria	% of crematoria
Whole of NSW	1541	100%	1480	100%	1014	100%	466	100%	61	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	1022	66%	1017	69%	671	66%	346	74%	5	8%
<i>Crown</i>	25	2%	21	1%	13	1%	8	2%	4	7%
<i>Private</i>	92	6%	40	3%	32	3%	8	2%	52	85%
<i>Church</i>	376	24%	376	25%	283	28%	93	20%	0	0%
<i>Community & Other</i>	26	2%	26	2%	15	1%	11	2%	0	0%
Metropolitan Sydney	182	100%	169	100%	115	100%	54	100%	13	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	54	30%	54	32%	32	28%	22	41%	0	0%
<i>Crown</i>	14	8%	10	6%	10	9%	0	0%	4	31%
<i>Private</i>	19	10%	10	6%	8	7%	2	4%	9	69%
<i>Church</i>	90	49%	90	53%	63	55%	27	50%	0	0%
<i>Community & Other</i>	5	3%	5	3%	2	2%	3	6%	0	0%
Rural and Regional NSW	1359	100%	1311	100%	899	100%	412	100%	48	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	968	71%	963	73%	639	71%	324	79%	5	10%
<i>Crown</i>	11	1%	11	1%	3	0%	8	2%	0	0%
<i>Private</i>	73	5%	30	2%	24	3%	6	1%	43	90%
<i>Church</i>	286	21%	286	22%	220	24%	66	16%	0	0%
<i>Community & Other</i>	21	2%	21	2%	13	1%	8	2%	0	0%

INTERMENT SERVICES SNAPSHOT

3. Interment services by region and operator type

Snapshot of sector	Total no. of interment & cremation services ²	% of total no. of interment & cremation services ²	Total no. of bodily interments & cremation services	% of total no. of bodily interment & cremation services	No. of interments of bodily remains	% of interments of bodily remains	No. of interments of cremated remains	% of interments of cremated remains	No. of cremations	% of cremations
Whole of NSW	76626	100%	64502	100%	19785	100%	12124	100%	44717	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	13291	17.3%	10009	15.5%	8463	42.8%	3282	27.1%	1546	3.5%
<i>Crown</i>	16100	21.0%	13446	20.8%	7707	39.0%	2654	21.9%	5739	12.8%
Private	46119	60.2%	40577	62.9%	3145	15.9%	5542	45.7%	37432	83.7%
<i>Church</i>	896	1.2%	270	0.4%	270	1.4%	626	5.2%	0	0%
<i>Community & Other</i>	220	0.3%	200	0.3%	200	1.0%	20	0.2%	0	0%
Metropolitan Sydney	37492	100%	31362	100%	10843	100%	6130	100%	20519	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	1435	3.8%	1080	3.4%	1080	10.0%	355	6%	0	0%
<i>Crown</i>	15817	42.2%	13222	42.2%	7483	69.0%	2595	42%	5739	28.0%
Private	19822	52.9%	16871	53.8%	2091	19.3%	2951	48%	14780	72.0%
<i>Church</i>	317	0.8%	88	0.3%	88	0.8%	229	4%	0	0%
<i>Community & Other</i>	101	0.3%	101	0.3%	101	0.9%	0	0%	0	0%
Rural and Regional NSW	39134	100%	33140	100%	8942	100%	5994	100%	24198	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	11856	30.3%	8929	26.9%	7383	82.6%	2927	49%	1546	6.4%
<i>Crown</i>	283	0.7%	224	0.7%	224	2.5%	59	1.0%	0	0%
Private	26297	67.2%	23706	71.5%	1054	11.8%	2591	43%	22652	93.6%
<i>Church</i>	579	1.5%	182	0.5%	182	2.0%	397	6.6%	0	0%
<i>Community & Other</i>	119	0.3%	99	0.3%	99	1.1%	20	0.3%	0	0%

² interment & cremation services means interments of bodily remains, interments of cremated remains, and cremations.

INTERMENT SERVICES IN DETAIL

4A. Interment of bodily and cremated remains by region and operator type

Interment services operator sector	INTERMENTS OF BODILY AND CREMATED REMAINS											
	TOTAL		ALL INTERMENTS OF BODILY AND CREMATED REMAINS		PERPETUAL TENURE							
	% Cremation Rate ³	Grave occupancy rate ⁴	No. of interments of bodily and cremated remains	% of interments of bodily and cremated remains	No. of interments of bodily remains that are first interments in an interment site	% of interments of bodily remains that are first interments in an interment site	No. of interments of bodily remains that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	% of interments of bodily remains that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	No. of interments of cremated remains that are the first interment in an interment site	% of interments of cremated remains that are the first interment in an interment site	No. of interments of cremated remains that are second and subsequent interments in the one interment site	% of interments of cremated remains that are second and subsequent interments in an interment site
Whole of NSW	69.3%	1.56	31909	100%	12723	100%	6880	100%	7516	100%	4421	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	15.4%	1.42	11745	37%	5944	46.7%	2454	36%	2250	30%	909	21%
<i>Crown</i>	42.7%	1.51	10361	32%	5090	40.0%	2503	36%	1912	25%	738	17%
<i>Private</i>	92.2%	2.40	8687	27%	1313	10.3%	1829	27%	2912	39%	2586	58%
<i>Church</i>	0%	1.35	896	3%	200	1.6%	70	1%	430	6%	180	4%
<i>Community & Other</i>	0%	1.14	220	1%	176	1.4%	24	0%	12	0%	8	0%
Metropolitan Sydney	65.4%	1.65	16973	100%	6563	100%	4136	100%	3561	100%	2536	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	0.0%	1.53	1435	8%	707	10.8%	343	8.3%	250	8%	84	8%
<i>Crown</i>	43.4%	1.52	10078	59%	4939	75.3%	2430	58.8%	1903	59%	688	59%
<i>Private</i>	87.6%	2.78	5042	30%	751	11.4%	1340	32.4%	1241	32%	1710	32%
<i>Church</i>	0%	1.33	317	2%	66	1.0%	22	0.5%	167	1%	54	1%
<i>Community & Other</i>	0%	1.01	101	1%	100	1.5%	1	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rural and Regional NSW	73.0%	1.45	14936	100%	6160	100%	2744	100%	3955	100%	1885	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	17.3%	1.41	10310	69%	5237	85.0%	2111	77%	2000	77%	825	77%
<i>Crown</i>	0.0%	1.48	283	2%	151	2.5%	73	3%	9	3%	50	3%
<i>Private</i>	95.6%	1.88	3645	24%	562	9.1%	489	18%	1671	18%	876	18%
<i>Church</i>	0%	1.36	579	4%	134	2.2%	48	2%	263	2%	126	2%
<i>Community & Other</i>	0%	1.30	119	1%	76	1.2%	23	1%	12	1%	8	1%

³ cremation rate means cremations vs Interments of bodily remains & cremations.

⁴ grave occupancy rate is the number of interments per interment site / grave.

4B. INTERMENT SERVICES IN DETAIL - RENEWABLE TENURE

Interment services operator sector	RENEWABLE TENURE							
	No. of interments of bodily remains that are first interment in an interment site	% of interments of bodily remains that are first interment in an interment site	No. of interments of bodily remains that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	% of interments of bodily remains that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	No. of interments of cremated remains that are the first interment in an interment site	% of interments of cremated remains that are the first interment in an interment site	No. of interments of cremated remains that are second and subsequent interments in an interment site	% of interments of cremated remains that are second and subsequent interments in an interment site
Whole of NSW	35	100%	20	100%	170	100%	6	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	30	86%	20	100%	119	70%	2	33%
<i>Crown</i>	5	14%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Private</i>	0	0%	0	0%	41	24%	3	50%
<i>Church</i>	0	0%	0	0%	10	6%	1	17%
<i>Community & Other</i>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Metropolitan Sydney	15	100%	20	100%	24	100%	3	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	10	67%	20	100%	17	71%	2	67%
<i>Crown</i>	5	33%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Private</i>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Church</i>	0	0%	0	0%	7	29%	1	33%
<i>Community & Other</i>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rural and Regional NSW	20	100%	0	0%	146	100%	3	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	20	100%	0	0%	102	70%	0	0%
<i>Crown</i>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Private</i>	0	0%	0	0%	41	28%	3	100%
<i>Church</i>	0	0%	0	0%	3	2%	0	0%
<i>Community & Other</i>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

4C. INTERMENT SERVICES IN DETAIL - PERSONS WITHOUT MEANS & CREMATIONS

Interment services operator sector	PERSONS WITHOUT MEANS				CREMATIONS			
	PERSONS WITHOUT MEANS				CREMATIONS		PERSON WITHOUT MEANS	
	No. of interments of bodily remains of a person without means	% of interments of bodily remains of a person without means	No. of interments of cremated remains of a person without means	% of interments of cremated remains of a person without means	No. of cremations (incl destitute cremations)	% of NSW cremations	No. of cremations of a person without means	% of cremations of a person without means
Whole of NSW	127	100%	11	100%	44717	100%	316	100%
Local Government	15	12%	2	18%	1546	3%	0	0%
Crown	109	86%	4	36%	5739	13%	1	0%
Private	3	2%	0	0%	37432	84%	315	100%
Church	0	0%	5	45%	0	0%	0	0%
Community & Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Metropolitan Sydney	109	100%	6	100%	20519	100%	186	100%
Local Government	0	0%	2	33%	0	0%	0	0%
Crown	109	727%	4	67%	5739	28%	1	1%
Private	0	0%	0	0%	14780	72%	185	99%
Church	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Community & Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rural and Regional NSW	18	100%	5	100%	24198	100%	130	100%
Local Government	15	83%	0	0%	1546	6%	0	0%
Crown	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Private	3	17%	0	0%	22652	94%	130	100%
Church	0	0%	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Community & Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

INTERMENT SERVICE RATES PER FACILITIES

5. Interment service activity rates by facility

Cemeteries	No. of local government cemeteries	No. of Crown cemeteries	No. of private cemeteries	No. of church cemeteries	No of community & other cemeteries	% of local government cemeteries	% of Crown cemeteries	% of private cemeteries	% of church cemeteries	% of community & other cemeteries
>10 interments per year - bodily remains and cremated remains	219	10	4	31	4	21.5%	47.6%	10.0%	8.2%	15.4%
<10 interments per year - bodily remains and cremated remains	452	3	28	252	11	44.4%	14.3%	70.0%	67.0%	42.3%
Inactive cemeteries	346	8	8	93	11	34.0%	38.1%	20.0%	24.7%	42.3%
Total no. of bodily interments	8463	7707	3145	270	200					
Total no. of bodily & cremated interments	11745	10361	8687	896	220					
Total no. of cemeteries in NSW	1017	21	40	376	26					

	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & other
Average no. of interments per cemetery by sector (bodily)	8.3	367.0	78.6	0.7	7.7
Average no. of interments per cemetery by sector (bodily & cremated remains)	11.5	493.4	217.2	2.4	8.5

OTHER RELATED CEMETERY ACTIVITIES

6. Other related cemetery activities that are not interment services by region and operator type

Interment services operator sector	Scatterings of cremated bodily remains ⁵		PREPURCHASED INTERMENT SITES			
	No. of scatterings of cremated bodily remains within a cemetery	% of scatterings of cremated bodily remains within a cemetery	No. of pre-purchased perpetual interment sites	% of pre-purchased perpetual interment sites	No. of pre-purchased renewable interment sites	% of pre-purchased renewable interment sites
Whole of NSW	407	100%	87661	100%	439	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	18	4%	28878	33%	287	65%
<i>Crown</i>	145	36%	46463	53%	13	3%
<i>Private</i>	208	51%	6091	7%	0	0%
<i>Church</i>	32	8%	6228	7%	139	32%
<i>Community & Other</i>	4	1%	1	0%	0	0%
Metropolitan Sydney	279	100%	56837	100%	319	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	6	2%	2219	4%	232	73%
<i>Crown</i>	145	52%	46370	82%	13	4%
<i>Private</i>	110	39%	4494	8%	0	0%
<i>Church</i>	18	6%	3754	7%	74	23%
<i>Community & Other</i>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rural and Regional NSW	128	100%	30824	100%	120	100%
<i>Local Government</i>	12	9%	26659	47%	55	46%
<i>Crown</i>	0	0%	93	4%	0	0%
<i>Private</i>	98	77%	1597	3%	0	0%
<i>Church</i>	14	11%	2474	55%	65	54%
<i>Community & Other</i>	4	3%	1	0%	0	0%

⁵ Scattering of cremated bodily remains within a cemetery is not an interment services under *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013* as an interment right is not required.

7A. WHOLE OF NSW, BURIALS AND CREMATIONS BY PLANNING REGION

Planning Region	No. of cemeteries (Active & Inactive)	No. of interments of bodily remains	% of interments of bodily remains	No. of crematoria	No. of cremations*	% of NSW cremations	Cremation rate %	No. of services (interments of bodily remains & cremations)	% of services (interments of bodily remains & cremations)	Total no. of interment of cremated remains & total no. of remains scattered within grounds	Total no. of all NSW services (interment of bodily & cremated remains and cremations)	% of all NSW services (interment of bodily & cremated remains and cremations)
Totals	1480	19785	100%	61	44717	100%	69.3%	64502	100%	12531	76626	100%
<i>Central Coast</i>	25	488	2.5%	2	2430	5.4%	83.3%	2918	4.5%	987	3880	5.1%
<i>Central West and Orana</i>	250	1306	6.6%	5	1364	3.1%	51.1%	2670	4.1%	442	3105	4.1%
<i>Far West</i>	70	309	1.6%	2	318	0.7%	50.7%	627	1.0%	104	731	1.0%
<i>Hunter</i>	231	1398	7.1%	7	5650	12.6%	80.2%	7048	10.9%	1489	8499	11.1%
<i>Illawarra-Shoalhaven</i>	64	902	4.6%	4	2799	6.3%	75.6%	3701	5.7%	1231	4917	6.4%
<i>Metropolitan Sydney</i>	169	10843	54.8%	13	20519	45.9%	65.4%	31362	48.6%	6409	37492	48.9%
<i>New England North West</i>	151	954	4.8%	4	831	1.9%	46.6%	1785	2.8%	254	2033	2.7%
<i>North Coast</i>	134	1179	6.0%	11	4327	9.7%	78.6%	5506	8.5%	880	6356	8.3%
<i>Riverina-Murray</i>	162	1383	7.0%	10	5564	12.4%	80.1%	6947	10.8%	421	7365	9.6%
<i>South East and Tablelands</i>	224	1023	5.2%	3	915	2.0%	47.2%	1938	3.0%	314	2248	2.9%

7B. METROPOLITAN SYDNEY, BURIALS AND CREMATIONS BY PLANNING SUB REGION

Planning Region	No. of cemeteries (Active & Inactive)	No. of interments of bodily remains	% of interments of bodily remains	No. of crematoria	No. of cremations*	% of NSW cremations	Cremation rate %	No. of services (interments of bodily remains & cremations)	% of services (interments of bodily remains & cremations)	Total no. of interment of cremated remains & total no. of remains scattered within grounds	Total no. of all NSW services (interment of bodily & cremated remains and cremations)	% of all NSW services (interment of bodily & cremated remains and cremations)
Totals	169	10843	100%	13	20519	100%	65.4%	31362	100%	6409	37492	100%
<i>Central</i>	23	837	7.7%	1	1052	5.1%	55.7%	1889	6.0%	719	2538	6.8%
<i>West Central</i>	26	5580	51.5%	4	5647	27.5%	50.3%	11227	35.8%	2396	13610	36.3%
<i>North</i>	26	1559	14.4%	2	5568	27.1%	78.1%	7127	22.7%	1372	8388	22.4%
<i>West</i>	47	419	3.9%	2	1567	7.6%	78.9%	1986	6.3%	175	2161	5.8%
<i>South West</i>	39	1797	16.6%	2	4447	21.7%	71.2%	6244	19.9%	583	6822	18.2%
<i>South</i>	8	651	6.0%	2	2238	10.9%	77.5%	2889	9.2%	1164	3973	10.6%