



NSW Annual Cemetery and Crematoria Operator Activity Report - 2022/23

OPERATORS:

1. Operators by operator type, region and operator sector

Operator type	Whole of NSW						Metropolitan Sydney						Rural and Regional NSW						
	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	
TOTAL																			
Total no. of all operators of cemeteries and crematoria	110	10	54	220	19	413	14	2	10	85	5	116	96	9	46	137	14	302	
% change from 2021-2022						0.0%						-0.9%						+0.7%	
% of total number of all operators of cemeteries and crematoria	27%	2%	13%	53%	5%		12%	2%	9%	73%	4%		32%	3%	15%	45%	5%		
OPERATORS OF CEMETERIES ONLY																			
No. of operators of cemeteries only	105	8	17	220	19	369	14	0	5	85	5	109	91	8	13	137	14	263	
% change from 2021-2022						+0.3%						0.0%						+0.8%	
% of operators of cemeteries only	28%	2%	5%	60%	5%		13%	0%	5%	78%	5%		35%	3%	5%	52%	5%		
OPERATORS OF CREMATORIA ONLY																			
No. of operators of crematoria only	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	17	0	0	17	
% change from 2021-2022						+5.3%						+50.0%						0.0%	
% of operator of crematoria only	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%		0%	0%	100%	0%	0%		0%	0%	100%	0%	0%		
OPERATORS WHO HAVE BOTH CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA																			
No. of operators who operate both cemeteries and crematoria	5	2	17	0	0	24	0	2	2	0	0	4	5	1	16	0	0	22	
% change from 2021-2022						-7.7%						-33.3%						0.0%	
% of operators who operate both cemeteries and crematoria	21%	8%	71%	0%	0%		0%	50%	50%	0%	0%		23%	5%	73%	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.
 2. Note as at 30 June 2023 the NSW Cemeteries and Crematoria Register recorded 417 operators, meaning 4 operators did not provide activity reporting in 2022/23

FACILITIES																		
2. Facilities by facility type, region and operator sector																		
Facilities by facilities type	Whole of NSW						Metropolitan Sydney						Rural and Regional NSW					
	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL
TOTAL																		
Total no. of facilities (cemeteries & crematoria)	1017	28	102	378	19	1544	54	15	20	89	5	183	963	13	82	289	14	1361
% change from 2021-2022						+0.2%						+0.5%						+0.1%
% of total number of facilities (cemeteries & crematoria)	66%	2%	7%	24%	1%		30%	8%	11%	49%	3%		71%	1%	6%	21%	1%	
CEMETERIES																		
No. of all cemeteries (active & inactive)	1012	23	49	378	19	1481	54	10	11	89	5	169	958	13	38	289	14	1312
% change from 2021-2022						+0.1%						0.0%						+0.1%
% of all cemeteries (active & inactive)	68%	2%	3%	20%	1%		32%	6%	7%	53%	3%		73%	1%	3%	22%	1%	
No. of active cemeteries	667	14	40	293	13	1027	33	10	10	71	3	127	634	4	30	222	10	900
% change from 2021-2022						+1.5%						+10.6%						+0.1%
% of active cemeteries	65%	1%	4%	29%	1%		26%	8%	8%	56%	2%		70%	0%	3%	25%	1%	
No. of inactive cemeteries	344	9	9	85	6	453	21	0	1	18	2	42	323	9	8	67	4	411
% change from 2021-2022						-2.8%						-22.2%						-0.2%
% of inactive cemeteries	76%	2%	2%	19%	1%		50%	0%	2%	43%	5%		79%	2%	2%	16%	1%	
No. of all cemeteries with designated areas for faith, religious, cultural or community group (active & inactive)	431	12	11	96	4	554	26	10	5	18	1	60	405	2	6	78	3	494
% change from 2021-2022						N/A						N/A						N/A
% of all cemeteries with designated areas for faith, religious, cultural or community group (active & inactive)	78%	2%	2%	17%	1%		43%	17%	8%	30%	2%		82%	0%	1%	16%	1%	
CREMATORIA																		
No. of crematoria	5	5	53	0	0	63	0	5	9	0	0	14	5	0	44	0	0	49
% change from 2021-2022						+3.3%						+7.7%						+2.1%
% of crematoria	8%	8%	84%	0%	0%		0%	36%	64%	0%	0%		10%	0%	90%	0%	0%	100%

INTERMENT SERVICES:

3. Interment services by region and operator sector

Interment services by type	Whole of NSW						Metropolitan Sydney						Rural and Regional NSW					
	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL
Total no. of interment services	13,707	17,163	46,186	1,397	117	78,570	1,233	16,886	18,813	499	42	37,473	12,474	277	27,373	898	75	41,097
% change from 2021-2022						+2.5%						-0.1%						+5.0%
% of total no. of interment services	17%	22%	59%	2%	0%													
Total no. of burials (interments of bodily remains) & cremations	9,809	13,656	42,005	322	57	65,849	823	13,439	16,988	95	42	31,387	8,986	217	25,017	227	15	34,462
% change from 2021-2022						+2.1%						+0.1%						+4.0%
% of total no. of burials (interments of bodily remains) & cremations	15%	21%	64%	0%	0%		3%	43%	54%	0%	0%		26%	1%	73%	1%	0%	
No. of burials (interments of bodily remains)	8,216	7,417	3,377	322	57	19,389	823	7,200	2,073	95	42	10,233	7,393	217	1,304	227	15	9,156
% change from 2021-2022						-2.0%						-5.6%						+2.4%
% of burials (interments of bodily remains)	42%	38%	17%	2%	0%		8%	70%	20%	1%	0%		81%	2%	14%	2%	0%	
No. of ash interments (interments of cremated remains)	3,898	3,507	4,181	1,075	60	12,721	410	3,447	1,825	404	0	6,086	3,488	60	2,356	671	60	6,635
% change from 2021-2022						+4.9%						-0.7%						+10.7%
% of ash interments (interment of cremated remains)	31%	28%	33%	8%	0%		7%	57%	30%	7%	0%		53%	1%	36%	10%	1%	
No. of cremations	1,593	6,239	38,628	0	0	46,460	0	6,239	14,915	0	0	21,154	1,593	0	23,713	0	0	25,306
% change from 2021-2022						+3.9%						+3.1%						+4.6%
% of cremations	3%	13%	83%	0%	0%		0%	29%	71%	0%	0%		6%	0%	94%	0%	0%	

3. Interment Services means interments of bodily remains, interments of cremated remains, and cremations. Burials means interments of bodily remains. Ash interments means interment of cremated remains

4. Interment services by region and operator sector in detail 4.5.6.6.7

Interment services by type	Whole of NSW						Metropolitan Sydney						Rural and Regional NSW					
	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL
TOTAL INTERMENTS OF BODILY AND CREMATED REMAINS																		
% cremation rate	16.2%	45.7%	92.0%	0.0%	0.0%	70.6%	0.0%	46.4%	87.8%	0.0%	0.0%	67.4%	17.7%	0.0%	94.8%	0.0%	0.0%	73.4%
% change from 2021-2022						+1.8%						+3.1%						+0.6%
Grave occupancy rate	1.39	1.51	1.17	1.30	1.04	1.38	1.70	1.51	1.09	1.38	1.05	1.41	1.36	1.48	1.32	1.27	1.00	1.35
% change from 2021-2022						-11.5%						-14.7%						-6.8%
ALL BURIALS (INTERMENTS OF BODILY REMAINS) AND ASH INTERMENTS (INTERMENTS OF CREMATED REMAINS)																		
Total no. of burials (interments of bodily remains) & ash interments	12,114	10,924	7,558	1,397	117	32,110	1,233	10,647	3,898	499	42	16,319	10,881	277	3,660	898	75	15,791
% change from 2021-2022						+0.6%						-3.9%						+5.7%
% of total no. of burials (interments of bodily remains) & ash interments	38%	34%	24%	4%	0%	8%	65%	24%	3%	0%		69%	2%	23%	6%	0%		
No. of burials & ash interments that are first interments in an interment site (Perpetual or Renewable)	8,852	7,419	6,671	1,051	114	24,107	822	7,260	3,732	445	40	12,299	8,030	159	2,939	606	74	11,808
No. of burials & ash interments that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site (Perpetual or Renewable)	3,259	3,505	887	344	3	7,998	411	3,387	166	54	2	4,020	2,848	118	721	290	1	3,978
No. of burials & ash interments in a perpetual interment site	11,917	10,920	7,502	1,226	117	31,682	1,139	10,643	3,898	476	42	16,198	10,778	277	3,604	750	75	15,484
No. of burials & ash interments in a renewable interment site	194	4	56	169	0	423	94	4	0	23	0	121	100	0	56	146	0	302
No. of burials & ash interments of a person without means	20	78	0	37	1	136	0	78	0	34	1	113	20	0	0	3	0	23
PERPETUAL TENURE																		
No. of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are first interments in an interment site	5,930	4,913	2,897	248	55	14,043	485	4,766	1,908	69	40	7,268	5,445	147	989	179	15	6,775
% change from 2021-2022						+10.4%						+10.7%						+10.0%
% of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are first interments in an interment site	42%	35%	21%	2%	0%	7%	66%	26%	1%	1%		80%	2%	15%	3%	0%		
No. of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	2,224	2,500	480	70	2	5,276	287	2,430	165	22	2	2,906	1,937	70	315	48	0	2,370
% change from 2021-2022						-23.3%						-29.7%						-13.6%
% of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	42%	47%	9%	1%	0%	10%	84%	6%	1%	0%		82%	3%	13%	2%	0%		
No. of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are first interments in an interment site	2,764	2,502	3,755	765	59	9,845	270	2,490	1,824	362	0	4,946	2,494	12	1,931	403	59	4,899
% change from 2021-2022						+31.0%						+38.9%						+23.9%
% of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are first interments in an interment site	28%	25%	38%	8%	1%	5%	50%	37%	7%	0%		51%	0%	39%	8%	1%		
No. of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are second and subsequent interments in an interment site	999	1,005	370	143	1	2,518	97	957	1	23	0	1,078	902	48	369	120	1	1,440
% change from 2021-2022						-43.0%						-57.5%						-23.6%
% of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are second and subsequent interments in an interment site	40%	40%	15%	6%	0%	9%	89%	0%	2%	0%		63%	3%	26%	8%	0%		
RENEWABLE TENURE																		
No. of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are first interments in an interment site	35	4	0	0	0	39	35	4	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
% change from 2021-2022						+11.4%						+160.0%						-100.0%
% of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are first interments in an interment site	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
No. of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	23	0	0	4	0	27	16	0	0	4	0	20	7	0	0	0	0	7
% change from 2021-2022						+35.0%						0.0%						N/A

% of burials (interments of bodily remains) that are second or subsequent interments in an interment site	85%	0%	0%	15%	0%		80%	0%	0%	20%	0%		100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
No. of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are the first interment in an interment site	123	0	19	38	0	180	32	0	0	14	0	46	91	0	19	24	0	134
% change from 2021-2022						+5.9%						+91.7%						-8.2%
% of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are the first interment in an interment site	68%	0%	11%	21%	0%		70%	0%	0%	30%	0%		68%	0%	14%	18%	0%	
No. of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are second and subsequent interments in the one interment site	13	0	37	127	0	177	11	0	0	5	0	16	2	0	37	122	0	161
% change from 2021-2022						+2850.0%						+433.3%						+5266.7%
% ash interments (interments of cremated remains) that are second and subsequent interments in an interment site	7%	0%	21%	72%	0%		69%	0%	0%	31%	0%		1%	0%	23%	76%	0%	
PERSONS WITHOUT MEANS																		
No. burials (interments of bodily remains) of a person without means	20	69	0	1	1	91	0	69	0	0	1	70	20	0	0	1	0	21
% change from 2021-2022						-28.3%						-35.8%						+16.7%
% of burials (interments of bodily remains) of a person without means	22%	76%	0%	1%	1%		0%	99%	0%	0%	1%		95%	0%	0%	5%	0%	
No. of ash interments (interments of cremated remains) of a person without means	0	9	0	36	0	45	0	9	0	34	0	43	0	0	0	2	0	2
% change from 2021-2022						+309.1%						+616.7%						-60.0%
% ash interments (interments of cremated remains) of a person without means	0%	20%	0%	80%	0%		0%	21%	0%	79%	0%		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	
NATURAL BURIAL																		
No. of burials (interments of bodily remains) in a natural burial site	5,799	235	45	59	600	6,738	3	72	0	0	580	655	5,796	163	45	59	20	6,083
% change from 2021-2022						N/A						N/A						N/A
% of burials (interments of bodily remains) in a natural burial site	86%	3%	1%	1%	9%		0%	11%	0%	0%	89%		95%	3%	1%	1%	0%	
CREMATIONS																		
No. of cremations (including a person without means)	1,593	6,239	38,628	0	0	46,460	0	6,239	14,915	0	0	21,154	1,593	0	23,713	0	0	25,306
% change from 2021-2022						+3.9%						+3.1%						+4.6%
% of cremations	3%	13%	83%	0%	0%		0%	29%	71%	0%	0%		6%	0%	94%	0%	0%	
CREMATIONS FOR PERSONS WITHOUT MEANS																		
No. of cremations of a person without means	0	9	176	0	0	185	0	9	58	0	0	67	0	0	118	0	0	118
% change from 2021-2022						-41.5%						-64.0%						-9.2%
% of cremations of a person without means	0%	5%	95%	0%	0%		0%	13%	87%	0%	0%		0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	

4. interment services means interments of bodily remains, interments of cremated remains, and cremations. Burials means interments of bodily remains. Ash interments means interment of cremated remains

5. cremation rate means cremations vs interments of bodily remains & cremations.

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

7. natural burial counts are cumulative totals rather than totals for 2022/23

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
Number of cemeteries that did 10 or more interments - burials (interments of bodily remains) and ash interments (interment of cremated remains)	227	10	29	38	2	22.4%	43.5%	59.2%	10.1%	10.5%
Number of cemeteries that did fewer than 10 interments - burials (interments of bodily remains) and ash interments (interment of cremated remains)	790	18	73	340	17	78.1%	78.3%	149.0%	89.9%	89.5%
Average no. of burials (interments of bodily remains) per cemetery by factor	8.1	322.5	68.9	0.9	3.0					
Average no. of burials (interments of bodily remains) and ash interments (interment of cremated remains) per cemetery by factor (bodily & cremated remains)	12.0	475.0	154.2	3.7	6.2					

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

Interment services operator sector	Whole of NSW						Metropolitan Sydney					Rural and Regional NSW							
	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	Local Government	Crown	Private	Church	Community & Other	TOTAL	
PREPURCHASED INTERMENT SITES																			
Total no. of pre-purchased interment sites	61,651	123,492	11,589	12,529	1,650	210,911	5,506	123,277	146	7,451	153	136,533	56,145	215	11,443	5,078	1,497	74,378	
No. of pre-purchased perpetual interment sites	61,496	123,489	11,448	12,306	1,499	210,238	5,484	123,277	146	7,363	2	136,272	56,012	212	11,302	4,943	1,497	73,966	
% change from 2021-2022						+139.8%						+139.8%						+140.0%	
% of pre-purchased perpetual interment sites	29%	59%	5%	6%	1%		4%	90%	0%	5%	0%		76%	0%	15%	7%	2%		
No. of pre-purchased renewable interment sites	155	3	141	223	151	673	22	0	0	88	151	261	133	3	141	135	0	412	
% change from 2021-2022						+33.3%						-18.2%						+243.3%	
% of pre-purchased renewable interment sites	23%	0%	21%	33%	22%		8%	0%	0%	34%	58%		32%	1%	34%	33%	0%		
NOT YET SOLD INTERMENT SITES																			
Total no. of not yet sold interment sites	330,596	61,230	108,129	46,181	47,748	593,884	7,493	58,913	51,254	10,877	41,107	169,644	323,103	2,317	56,875	35,304	6,641	424,240	
No. of not yet sold perpetual interment sites	327,874	60,633	107,929	44,439	10,061	550,936	6,949	58,913	51,254	10,436	3,420	130,972	320,925	1,720	56,675	34,003	6,641	419,964	
% change from 2021-2022						N/A						N/A						N/A	
% of not yet sold perpetual interment sites	60%	11%	20%	8%	2%		5%	45%	39%	8%	3%		76%	0%	13%	8%	2%		
No. of not yet sold renewable interment sites	2,722	597	200	1,742	37,687	42,948	544	0	0	441	37,687	38,672	2,178	597	200	1,301	0	4,276	
% change from 2021-2022						N/A						N/A						N/A	
% of not yet sold renewable interment sites	6%	1%	0%	4%	88%		1%	0%	0%	1%	97%		51%	14%	5%	30%	0%		

INTERMENT SERVICES BY PLANNING REGION

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

Planning Region	No. of cemeteries (Active)	% Change from 2021-2022	No. of cemeteries (Inactive)	% Change from 2021-2022	No. of cemeteries (Active & Inactive)	% Change from 2021-2022	No. of interments of bodily remains (burials)	% Change from 2021-2022	% of interments of bodily remains (burials)	No. of crematoria	% Change from 2021-2022	No. of cremations*	% Change from 2021-2022	% of NSW cremations	Cremation rate %	% Change from 2021-2022
Whole of NSW	1,027	+1.3%	453	-2.8%	1,481	+0.1%	19,389	-2.0%	100%	63	+3.3%	46,460	+3.9%	100%	70.6%	+1.8%
Central Coast	21		5		26	+4.0%	503	+3.1%	2.6%	2	0.0%	2,256	-7.2%	4.9%	81.8%	-1.8%
Central West and Far West	161		88		249	-0.4%	1,450	+11.0%	7.5%	6	+20.0%	1,383	+1.4%	3.0%	48.8%	-4.5%
Hunter	42		26		68	-2.9%	284	-8.1%	1.5%	2	0.0%	308	-3.1%	0.7%	52.0%	+2.6%
Illawarra Shoalhaven	183		53		236	+2.2%	1,436	+2.7%	7.4%	7	0.0%	5,570	-1.4%	12.0%	79.5%	-0.9%
Metropolitan Sydney	35		27		62	-3.1%	890	-1.3%	4.6%	4	0.0%	3,289	+17.5%	7.1%	78.7%	-4.1%
New England North	127		42		169	0.0%	10,233	-5.6%	52.8%	14	+7.7%	21,154	+3.1%	45.5%	67.4%	+3.1%
North Coast	97		55		152	+0.7%	877	-8.1%	4.5%	4	0.0%	936	+12.6%	2.0%	51.6%	+10.8%
Riverina Murray	99		37		136	+1.5%	1,159	-1.7%	6.0%	11	0.0%	4,335	+0.2%	9.3%	78.9%	-0.4%
South East and Table Top	115		43		159	-1.9%	1,544	+11.6%	8.0%	10	0.0%	6,058	+8.9%	13.0%	79.7%	-0.5%
Metropolitan Sydney	147	+10.4%	42	-22.2%	169	0.0%	10,233	-5.6%	100%	14	+7.7%	21,154	+3.1%	100%	67.4%	+3.1%
Central	18		4		22	-4.3%	806	-3.7%	7.9%	1	0.0%	1,098	+4.4%	5.2%	57.7%	+3.5%
West Central	18		8		26	0.0%	5,111	-8.4%	49.9%	4	0.0%	5,364	-5.0%	25.4%	51.2%	+1.8%
North	19		9		28	+7.7%	1,592	+2.1%	15.6%	2	0.0%	5,749	+3.3%	27.2%	78.3%	+0.3%
West	34		13		47	0.0%	346	-17.4%	3.4%	2	0.0%	1,406	-10.3%	6.6%	80.3%	+1.7%
South West	31		8		39	0.0%	1,684	-6.3%	16.5%	3	+50.0%	5,323	+19.7%	25.2%	76.0%	+6.7%
South	7		0		7	-12.5%	694	+6.6%	6.8%	2	0.0%	2,214	-1.1%	10.5%	76.1%	-1.8%

METRICS OVER TIME

8. Annual interment services in NSW (interments of bodily remains, cremations, and interments of cremated remains): 2014-15 to 2022-23

Interment Services	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Burials	17,883	18,709	18,415	18,335	17,955	17,841	17,359	19,785	19,389
Interment of Ash interments									
Interment of cremated	11,092	11,398	11,873	13,587	10,883	10,266	12,939	12,124	12,721
cremations	36,112	36,257	36,704	38,768	39,391	40,081	41,448	44,717	46,460
Total Services	65,087	66,364	66,992	70,690	68,229	68,188	71,746	76,626	78,570
Percent change		+2.0%	+0.9%	+5.5%	-3.5%	-0.1%	+5.2%	+6.8%	+2.5%

9. Average number of burials per cemetery by sector : 2020-21 to 2022-23

Sector	2020-21	2021-22	Yot % Change	2022-23	Yot % Change
Other	7.7	8.3	+7.8%	8.1	-2.2%
Crown	314.2	367	+16.8%	322.5	-12.1%
Private	83.6	78.6	-6.0%	68.9	-12.3%
Church	0.6	0.7	+16.7%	0.9	+21.7%
Cemetery	6.4	7.7	+20.3%	3.0	-61.0%