



AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

LAPCSESC
Civil Proceedings
Submission 002

11 October 2011

The Honourable Dean Wells MP
Acting Chair
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QUEENSLAND 4000

To the Honourable Dean Wells MP

On behalf of the Australian Funeral Directors Association (AFDA) Queensland Division, I would like to take this opportunity to provide our submission on behalf of our Members regarding the proposed Civil Proceedings Bill 2011.

Earlier in the year the AFDA Queensland Division was provided the opportunity to submit our Association's views to the Attorney General regarding the proposed changes to the Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act and the Cremation Act. The Members of the AFDA Queensland Division have not altered their position on the matter and therefore submit a consistent viewpoint as previously stated.

Through consultation with our AFDA Queensland Members, the Division would like to state that regional and rural operators should not be permitted to be exempt from electronic lodgement of Births Deaths and Marriages registrations of cremation or burial notices and that the process should apply to all Cemetery and Crematoria facilities in Queensland.

Whilst it has been acknowledged in written correspondence received from Tess Bishop, Principal Policy Advisor, that the abovementioned statement would not provide blanket exemption, our Association strongly believes that infrastructure to allow such lodgement should be deemed a priority for the Government to ensure compliance.

In relation to the proposed changes to the Cremation Act 2003 the AFDA strongly believe that the cremation facility number must be placed on the cremated remains containers as a legislative requirement.

The quantity of the proposed additional content to be included on the labelling of ashes containers as previously advised in writing by the Attorney General July 2011 raised concerns for our Association. The AFDA supports the concept however suggests that some aspects of the information are printed on the ashes container and the remaining information is recorded and retained at the crematorium. It is felt such an approach would prove more cost effective from a labelling perspective although it is acknowledged there may be additional administration resources required by crematoriums to fulfil their legislative requirements which may be passed on to funeral directors and client families.

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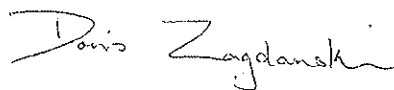
The AFDA Queensland Division recommends that the ashes container labelling includes:

- Full name of deceased
- Usual, or last known address
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Name and address of Crematorium
- Date of cremation
- Cremation facility number

As mentioned above, the additional information regarding place of death; name of person who issued the permission to cremate; the date the permission to cremate was issued etc, would be recorded and retained at the crematorium.

The AFDA Queensland Division appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on behalf of our Members and offers assistance with regard to the development, implementation and communication regarding changes to any of the above mentioned Acts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Zagdanski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Doris Zagdanski
Queensland Divisional President