

## Cremation

*A crematorium operator requires a cremation permit before they will perform a cremation. Many of the steps necessary to obtain a permit can be managed by a funeral director or the executor of the will.*

The steps to obtaining a permit are:

- the executor or next of kin completes a 'permission to cremate', which confirms the deceased person's wishes about interment
- the permission is given to the doctor that issued the medical certificate for cause of death
- the doctor issues a cremation certificate
- a medical referee confirms the certificate and issues the cremation permit.

In some instances, a coroner can issue a cremation permit.

A cremation operator must do one of the following things with cremated remains:

- give them to the applicant (most often a family member, trustee, legal guardian or executor of the will)
- dispose of them in land reserved for burial or cremated remains
- retain or dispose of them in some other way.

The applicant is expected to collect the cremated remains within a reasonable amount of time. Applicants should check details with the crematorium operator, as timing conditions may vary.

## What can be done with ashes

There are no health risks associated with handling ashes. The high temperatures used during cremation render ashes inert.

## More information

Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW is a statutory body created under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013*, providing a strategic and coordinated approach for operators providing interment services in NSW.

For general information visit the website at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/ccnsw](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/ccnsw)

Email: [ccnsw.info@cemeteries.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ccnsw.info@cemeteries.nsw.gov.au)

Depending on the personal wishes of the deceased and any religious and cultural practices, ashes can be:

- buried in a cemetery in a plot (including in a family plot)
- placed in a columbarium or niche wall at a cemetery
- scattered in a cemetery
- scattered on private land
- scattered in public spaces including a beach, river, park or at sea
- kept in a decorative urn.

Some religious practices and beliefs do not support the placement of cremation ashes into physical objects such as commemorative glass ornaments or jewellery.

## Scattering of ashes

It is important to obtain permission from the owner or manager of a location before scattering ashes. Consent is required from the:

- owner of land, for private land
- trust authority, for state parks and reserves
- local council, for parks, beaches and playing fields.

Permission or a licence from the Environmental Protection Authority is not required for scattering ashes. The proximity and sensibilities of other people in the vicinity should be considered.