

Australian Capital Territory

Cemeteries and Crematoria Code of Practice 2020

Disallowable instrument DI2020–242

made under the

Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020, section 123 (Code of Practice - approval)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 123 of the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2020* (the Act) provides that the Minister may approve a code of practice in relation to facilities (cemeteries and crematoria), the burial, cremation, exhumation or transportation of human remains, the interment and disinterment of cremated remains, and the memorialisation of a deceased person.

This instrument determines standards of operational activities undertaken by cemeteries and crematoria and provides guidance to licensees of these facilities.

The previous code, made under the repealed *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*, was developed in consultation with the Australian Funeral Directors Association and the Australasian Cemeteries and Crematoria Association. Several sections of the previous code have now been revised and included in the primary law.

The code has been revised with input from cemetery and crematoria staff operating in the ACT and with consideration of established frameworks in other Australian jurisdictions to ensure national consistency.

In summary, the code:

- clarifies processes relating to the memorialisation of a deceased person and the responsibilities of maintaining memorials;
- provides guidance on approval of monuments and memorials;
- provides guidance on multiple burials in a grave or burial site;
- outlines the rights of religious and cultural groups for funeral services and memorialisation; and
- provides guidance on suitable contents of coffins for cremation and handling of cremated remains.