



**Embassy of the United States of America
Canberra, Australia**

**UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: December 13, 2011
TO: Department of State – CA/OCS/ACS/EAP
FROM: American Embassy, Canberra
TAGS: CASC
SUBJECT: DEATH: Disposition of Remains Report
REF: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data. The laws cited are from the legislation of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia, Cemeteries and Crematoria Regulation 2003 (1) and Cemeteries and Crematoria (Code of Practice) Approval 2007 (2).

(1) <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/sl/2003-31/current/pdf/2003-31.pdf>

(2) <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2007-100/current/pdf/2007-100.pdf>

The previous report was submitted by Canberra on September 1, 2008.

Part I.

Australia

Part II. U.S. Embassy or Consulate Information

U.S. Embassy, Canberra
Address: Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600
Phone: +61-2-6214-5600
Fax: +61-2-6273-3191
After Hours Phone: +61-2-6214-5600

Country Specific Information Australia, Public Announcement or Travel Warnings can be accessed via the internet at <http://www.travel.state.gov>

Register With the U.S. Embassy at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors.

Country Profile: Host Country Religions (From [Background Notes](#))

Religions: A variety of religions are freely practiced in Australia and places of worship are easy to locate.

Religious Activities For Visitors (From [Post Reports On Line](#) (Intranet))

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy, Canberra, Australia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

The quality of service and fees charged by funeral companies in the ACT region are consistent with the appropriate industry standards in Australia. We have not had any information that indicates the quality of care provided by these funeral directors are substandard to the expectations of individuals using a reputable funeral company in the United States.

<u>Grantley Perry & Sons</u> 12 Sandford Street MITCHELL, ACT 2911 Ph: +61-2-6241-4101 www.perryfunerals.com	<u>Tobin Brothers</u> 91 Crawford Street QUEANBEYAN, NSW 2620 Ph: +61-2-6297-1546 www.tobinscanberrafunerals.com.au
<u>M.H. O'Rourke</u> 2 Dundas Court PHILLIP ACT 2606 Ph: +61-2-6166-0966 www.oroukefunerals.com.au	<u>Toscan Dinn Funerals</u> 10 Liardet Street WESTON ACT 2611 Ph: +61-2-6287-3466 www.toscandinn.com.au
<u>M.H. O'Rourke</u> 113 Crawford Street QUEANBEYAN, NSW 2620 Ph: +61-2-6297 1052 www.oroukefunerals.com.au	<u>William Cole Funerals</u> 60 Nettlefold Street, BELCONNEN ACT 2617 Ph: +61-2-6253-3655 www.williamcofefunerals.com.au
<u>Tobin Brothers</u> 101 Nettlefold Street, BELCONNEN, ACT 2617 Ph: +61-2-6251 2344 www.tobinscanberrafunerals.com.au	<u>White Lady Funerals</u> 101 Nettlefold Street BELCONNEN, ACT 2617 Ph: +61-2-6251-4369 www.whiteladyfunerals.com.au

<u>Tobin Brothers</u> 75 Canberra Avenue KINGSTON ACT 2604 Ph: +61-2-6295-2799 www.tobinscanberrafunerals.com.au	<u>Norwood Park Crematorium</u> 65 Sandford Street MITCHELL ACT 2911 Ph: +61-2-6241-3177 http://www.norwoodpark.com.au
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The ACT Public Cemeteries Authority (the Authority) operates under the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*. It manages and operates public cemeteries at Gungahlin, Woden and Hall.

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

1. MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL OF REMAINS

Neither ACT nor Australian law places a time limit on burial, whether or not the remains are embalmed. There is no fee by the mortuary for storage of remains for a reasonable period of time.

2. EMBALMING

Full embalming facilities are available in the ACT. Embalming is generally done as soon as possible but no later than 7 days after death and is required by law, in the ACT, only when the body has to travel overseas, or will be placed in a mausoleum above ground.

3. CREMATION

ACT and Australian law permit cremation, and cremation facilities are available in the ACT. There is one crematorium in ACT - Norwood Park Crematorium, 65 Sandford Street, Mitchell, ACT 2911.

Cremation may take place after the required certificates are submitted either by the coroner or physician, and the operator of the crematorium is satisfied that there are no directions from the deceased that he/she should not be cremated and the remains are in an approved coffin, casket or other container.

Any coffin constructed of metal or having a metal internal liner or other metal insert is not acceptable for cremation.

4. CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

Export –quality caskets and shipping containers which meet the requirements of 7 FAM 260 are available in the ACT.

Ashes/Cremains are placed in a sealed container (usually plastic) suitable to pass through the x-ray machine as required by TSA when they are to be transported by a courier company or carried by an individual or mailed overseas through the Australian postal system.

5. EXPORTATION OF REMAINS

HUMAN REMAINS

Documentary requirements for exportation of human remains are as follows:

- (a) Death certificate from the Register of Births, Deaths & Marriages;
- (b) Embalming certificate issued by the undertaker;
- (c) Death Certificate issued by the Coroner or physician;
- (d) Letter stating that the remains have no quarantinable diseases, issued by the Coroner or physician;
- (e) Affidavit by the undertaker attesting to contents and embalming and that the cask is hermetically sealed; and
- (f) Consular Mortuary Certificate issued by the Consular Officer.

EXPORTATION OF HUMAN CREMAINS/ASHES

Local requirements for the exportation of human remains are as follows:

Documents to accompany the container of the decedent's ashes are as follows:

- (a) Death certificate from the Register of Births, Deaths & Marriages
- (b) Cremation certificate from the crematorium
- (c) Statutory Declaration from the funeral director or crematorium stating the container holds only the cremated remains of the deceased.

6. COSTS

The following fee schedules include cost estimates for interment in Canberra and repatriation of deceased and cremated remains from Canberra, Australia to the U.S.

Costs are based on the Consular exchange rate of May 12, 2011:
US\$1.00 = A\$1.00 (Australian Dollar)

Local Burial without Embalming:

Estimated costs including funeral directors fees, timber coffin, legal documentation and certificates, and burial at cemetery with service:

US\$8,300

Local Cremation without Embalming:

Estimated costs including funeral director's fees, documentation and certificates timber coffin, transportation of remains to crematorium facilities, cremation fees and strewing of ashes:

US\$5,000

Preparation and shipment of deceased to USA:

Estimated costs related to preparation of human remains for shipment (total weight approx. 200kg) including funeral director's fees, embalming, metal casket and liner, legal documentation and certificates, and shipping costs by air from Canberra, ACT.

To San Francisco	US\$14,600
To Chicago	US\$15,000
To New York	US\$15,200

Preparation and shipment of cremated remains to USA:

Estimated costs including funeral director's fees, timber coffin, cremation fees, documentation and certificates, and shipment costs:

US\$5100

Approximate costs for international courier shipment of ashes between 2-4 kilograms:

US\$300

Human ashes are permitted to be mailed through Australia Post to the United States from Australia and must be sent by International Air Mail with extra cover. The usual delivery time is 3 - 10 work days, costing approximately US\$110. Further information and contact details for Australia Post is available on their website; <http://www.auspost.com.au/>

NOTE: All prices quoted above are estimated shipping costs only and may be subject to change.

7. EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT

Exhumation in the ACT may be carried out at any time after burial. Any persons can apply for an exhumation. An exhumation application must be completed and a death certificate must be produced for application to the Chief Executive Officer of the ACT Health Department.

The cost of exhumation and preparation for shipment of remains to the United States (Los Angeles) is approximately US\$17,000.

8. AUTOPSIES (post-mortem examination)

When a person dies, a doctor will usually certify that death has occurred by signing a Death Certificate. In certain instances it may not be legally possible for the doctor to issue a Death Certificate and it may be necessary for an autopsy to be completed.

An autopsy (also called a post-mortem) is a thorough medical examination performed by a Pathologist to establish the medical cause of death and is usually carried out within 48 hours after the death of a person.

The current practice in the ACT is that all accidental deaths or deaths due to suspicious or unnatural causes, or anyone who had not seen a physician in the three months prior to death (which would normally include U.S. citizen visitors), are reported to the Coroner's Office for determination of death. In the ACT all magistrates are also coroners and the Chief Magistrate is the Chief Coroner.

The Coroner will decide whether an autopsy is needed to assist in determining the manner and cause of the death of a person. The permission of the next of kin is not required for a coronial autopsy.

When an autopsy is required, it can take several weeks to obtain an official cause of death for release to the Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages in Canberra. In cases where the Coroner issues a certificate authorizing the disposal of the body, an interim death certificate may be issued, however the cause of death will be noted as "awaiting coroner's report".

After the Coroner releases the report on the cause of death, an application can be made for a local death certificate showing the cause of death, which is used by post to issue the Final Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad.

9. REMARKS

Obtaining a copy of a Death Certificate in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

The Office of Regulatory Services is responsible for the administration of legislation relating to the registration of deaths that occur in the Australian Capital Territory, and provides certificates of registrations to authorized applicants.

Persons whom are named as either the spouse, domestic partner, parent or child of a deceased person whose death is registered in the ACT may apply for a certified copy of the death certificate by completing an Application for Certificate form or apply online and by paying the prescribed fee.

Website: http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/births_deaths_and_marriages