

# **DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT**

## **U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, SYDNEY**

### **PART I – Name of Country**

Australia

### **PART II - Consulate Information**

Covering the Consular district of the Australian states of New South Wales and Queensland

Address: U.S. Consulate General  
Level 10, MLC Centre  
19-29 Martin Place  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Australia  
[Embassy of Australia website](#)

Phone: +612 9373 9200

Fax: +612 9373 9184

State Department [Country Specific Information for Australia](#)

State Department [Travel Information for Australia](#)

Registration with [U.S. Embassies and Consulates](#)

### **PART III - Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available**

A variety of religions are freely practiced in Australia. According to the 2016 Census, Christianity is practiced by 52% of the population while Islam (2.6%) and Buddhism (2.4%) are the next most practiced religions.

### **PART IV - Funeral Directors and Related Services Available in New South Wales and Queensland:**

*DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate General, Sydney, 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:*

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Sydney Area

#### ***Maurer & Bracks Funerals***

Multiple Locations

Web: <http://maurerfunerals.com.au>

#### ***Metropolitan Funerals***

Affiliated with

- Boland Funerals
- Gregory & Carr Funerals

Web: <http://metropolitanfunerals.com.au>

#### ***T.J. Andrews Funeral Directors***

Multiple Locations

Web: <http://tjandrews.com.au>

#### ***Value Funerals***

Gordon

Web: <http://valuefunerals.com.au/>

### Rural Area

#### ***France Family Funerals***

Nelson Bay

Tel: +612-4981-4488

#### ***Hubert Logue and Sons***

Wellington

Tel: +612-6845-1946

#### ***W. Larcombe & Sons***

Dubbo

Tel: +612-6882-3199

#### ***Murphy Family Funerals***

Nowra

Tel: +612-4423-072

## QUEENSLAND:

### Brisbane Area

#### ***Alex Gow Funerals***

Multiple Locations

Web: <http://alexgowfunerals.com.au>

#### ***Cannon & Cripps***

Brisbane

Tel: +617-3356-4277

#### ***K.M. Smith Funerals***

Multiple Locations

Web: <http://kmsmith.com.au>

#### ***Metropolitan Funerals***

Affiliated with

- Beaudesert Funerals
- City Funerals
- Gatton Laidley Lowood Funerals
- Hiram Philip Funerals
- Mackay Funerals
- Sarina Funerals

Web: <http://metropolitanfunerals.com.au>

### Regional Area

#### ***Burkin Svendsen Funerals***

Westcourt

Web: <http://burkinfunerals.com.au>

#### ***Morley's Funerals***

Web: <http://www.morleys.net.au>

Townsville

Tel: +617-4779-4744

#### ***Newhaven Funerals***

Multiple Locations

Web: <http://newhavenfunerals.com.au>

## **PART V - Profile of services available in Australia regarding preparation and shipment of remains:**

Funeral directors assist with every aspect of the process and will prepare remains for cremation/interment in Australia, or repatriation to the United States. Adequate services are available to refrigerate, house, handle, embalm, transport, and process human remains.

### **1. Maximum Period of Retention of Bodies Prior to Burial**

Neither local nor national law places a time limit on burial, whether or not the remains are embalmed. Experience has shown that if bodies have been retained for more than 6 months the authorities will proceed to dispose of remains through a destitute burial.

### **2. Embalming**

Embalming is essential if the body is to be entombed above ground or transported overseas. Australian facilities have licensed staff to provide embalming services. They also allow for embalming in cases where the death was due to HIV and Hepatitis C. While embalming is typically required for exporting deceased remains to the U.S., exceptions can be made for religions that prohibit embalming. In these instances, the body can be prepared in accordance with said practices and hermetically sealed in the transport coffin for shipment.

### **3. Cremation**

Cremation services are readily available in Australia. The cremation process may commence after the appropriate documentation has been issued by the local medical authorities regarding the cause and nature of death.

### **4. Caskets and Containers**

Export-quality caskets and containers available locally meet the requirements for shipment to the United States, including being hermetically sealed. Local funeral directors provide a variety of caskets and cost depends on the materials and construction of the casket.

### **5. Export of Remains**

Except as noted, procedures and documents for the exportation of human remains are shipping company or U.S. Government requirements:

#### Embalmed Remains:

1. Death Certificate from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages;
2. Embalming certificate issued by the undertaker/funeral director;
3. Health certificate stating that the remains have no quarantinable diseases, issued by the Department of Health;
4. Infectious disease certificate issued by the Department of Health/Human Services;
5. Affidavit by undertaker attesting to contents and embalming and that the casket is hermetically sealed against the escape of microorganisms; and
6. Consular Mortuary Certificate issued by a United States Consular Officer.

#### Cremated remains:

1. Death Certificate from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages;
2. Cremation certificate\*; and
3. Certificate from the crematory\* stating that the container holds only the cremated remains of the deceased.

\* (The information requested in items 2 and 3 are often included on a single certificate).

## 6. Costs

Costs have been converted to U.S. dollars from the cost in local currency at the consular rate of exchange of US\$1.00 = AU\$1.254, which prevailed on August 29, 2017.

All expenses associated with the burial and repatriation processes must be paid in advance. Fees may vary depending on the services provided. Cost of burial and repatriation of the remains of a deceased will vary depending on where the death occurred. The following fee schedule includes cost estimates. Additional charges apply if the deceased must be transported to Sydney or Brisbane from interstate for local burial or repatriation to the U.S.

SERVICE	SYDNEY		BRISBANE	
	AUD	USD	AUD	USD
CREMATION/INTERMENT IN AUSTRALIA				
Cremation with funeral service	7500.00	5980.86	8060.00	6427.43
Cremation without funeral service	4750.00	3787.88	3402.00	2712.92
Internment of with funeral service and embalming	11680.00	9314.19	23482.00	18725.68
Internment without funeral service or embalming	8500.00	6778.31	9338.00	7446.57
Repatriating deceased U.S. citizens to the U.S. with funeral service	11800.00	9409.89	19500.00	15550.24
Repatriating deceased U.S. citizens to the U.S. without funeral service	10000.00	7974.48	14000.00	11164.27
Consular Fee for U.S. citizens	No Fee	No Fee	No Fee	No Fee
Consular fees (for non-U.S. Citizens)	62.25	50.00	62.25	50.00
Cremation with funeral service	7520.00	6001.60	8707.00	6943.38
Cremation without funeral service	5200.00	4146.73	3996.00	3186.60

Destitution and funeral costs: In cases of destitution where neither the deceased person's estate nor family members are able to pay funeral costs, the state authority may be able to assist with a state funded funeral.

For information about state funded funerals in New South Wales, click [here](#)

For information about state funded funerals in Queensland, click [here](#)

### Air Freight

Remains: FedEx and DHL will not transport human remains in any form. Freight charges imposed by local cargo companies vary depending on the weight and dimensions of the item. The following shipping charges are estimates based on average weight of an export type casket with human remains averaging 330Lbs (150Kgs). Costs for air freight transport from Sydney and Brisbane to various points in the United States are listed below and must be added to the cost of funeral and export preparation processes:

<b>SYDNEY TO:</b>	<b>TOTAL AUD</b>	<b>TOTAL USD</b>
California	3087.00	2461.72
Illinois	3312.00	2641.15
New York	3367.00	2685.01
<b>BRISBANE TO:</b>		
	<b>TOTAL AUD</b>	<b>TOTAL USD</b>
California	6031.00	4809.41
Illinois	6671.00	5319.78
New York	6831.00	5447.37

#### Cremated Remains:

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 AU\$500/US\$398.72. Ashes must be in a zinc lined urn with suitable cushioning, strong packaging and a customs declaration form stating the contents of the container must be affixed to the package. A copy of the cremation certificate and death certificate is required. Australia Post will not ship any item over 20kg. [Contact Australia Post](#) for more details as shipping requirements are subject to change.

Surface (Sea) Mail: is not recommended for various reasons.

#### **7. Exhumation and shipping**

Exhumation is the removal of deceased remains from a vault or grave for reasons other than re-burial. An exhumation can be ordered by a coroner for the purposes of forensic or criminal investigation or an application to exhume remains may be submitted to the local government authorities. For more information contact the New South Wales Department of Health on +612-9391-9000 or Queensland Department of Health on +617-3234-0111.

Applicants are responsible for paying all the fees associated with exhumation. The fee schedule below is prepared using information provided by local funeral directors and estimates the costs for exhuming and preparing remains and export.

<b>EXHUMING AND SHIPPING REMAINS</b>		
<b>SYDNEY TO:</b>	<b>TOTAL AUD</b>	<b>TOTAL USD</b>
California	20000.00	15948.96
Illinois	20000.00	15948.96
New York	20000.00	15948.96
<b>BRISBANE TO:</b>		
	<b>TOTAL AUD</b>	<b>TOTAL USD</b>
California	19899.00	15880.29
Illinois	20538.00	16377.99
New York	20878.00	16649.12

## **8. Autopsies**

An autopsy is an inspection of the body that can assist medical authorities with establishing the reason for illness and death. The necessity for an autopsy and its extensiveness is determined by medical authorities. The decedent's doctor or family may request an autopsy be performed. Family members requesting an autopsy should be aware that a fee of approximately AUD 4,000.00 (USD 3,189.79) may be charged. A Coroner may also request an autopsy, without family consent when the cause of death is unknown or due to unnatural causes, such as accident or suicide. No fee is charged to the family for an autopsy ordered by the Coroner. Once the autopsy is completed to the Coroner's satisfaction, the Coroner will issue a Burial/Cremation Permit and release the body.

Information regarding autopsies previously conducted in NSW and QLD is available to immediate family members of a deceased person or an agent of the family. The law regarding disclosure of information varies among the Australian states and territories. Inquiries regarding autopsies conducted in NSW should be directed to the Office of Clinical Policy, NSW Health on +612-9391-9524, or +612-9391-9450 and in Queensland to the Coronial Counseling Service on +617-3274-9200.

## **9. Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services**

Australia is home to a diverse religious population with varying funeral, and mourning practices and local places of worship should be consulted when preparing services.

Australian funeral homes typically provide services for wakes, funeral/memorial ceremonies, cremation and/or interment of deceased persons. Relatives and friends of the deceased are usually welcome to attend each part of the service.

## **10. Remarks**

There are some cases when a death may be registered with the Registrar prior to establishing cause of death. When this occurs, the Coroner may be contacted to ascertain when the cause of death will be registered so that a complete death certificate may be obtained.

Death certificates may be requested from the relevant state's [Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages](#).