



Northern Cemeteries

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

23 March 2020

### **Cemeteries strengthen measures in response to COVID-19**

Northern Cemeteries, which manages five not-for-profit sites across Sydney and Newcastle, has bolstered measures and precautions in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Each of the cemeteries located on Crown land at Macquarie Park, Frenchs Forest, Field of Mars, Gore Hill and Sandgate, near Newcastle, is following strict COVID-19 government regulations and recommendations, including heightened restrictions on indoor gatherings, to ensure memorialisation operations continue at this stage.

Northern Cemeteries CEO Pauline Tritton says they are monitoring the situation daily during what can only be described as unprecedented times, which are only adding to the immense grief already being experienced by families and friends who have lost a loved one.

"I want to assure people that their funeral arranged through Northern Cemeteries during this current situation will be carried out with utmost respect and professionalism for the deceased and bereaved family," Mrs Tritton explained.

"We have strengthened all possible measures to ensure the safety, care, and wellbeing of families, the wider community, and our staff."

Chapel services have been suspended at Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery. Burials will be conducted at Macquarie Park, Frenchs Forest, Field of Mars and Sandgate cemeteries from Monday to Friday only.

Under further increased social distancing practices, indoor gatherings have been limited with seating in chapels reconfigured to conform to Australian Government restrictions.

People are being advised to maintain the recommended safe distance in space to one person per four square metres during services, move on after they have ended, and refrain from forming a condolence line or congregating in groups. A free webcasting service is available for those unable to attend.

Those who are experiencing added distress, especially the elderly, or people with growing concerns regarding funeral and memorialisation services, are being advised to contact Northern Cemeteries.

"Our hearts go out to all those who may be either directly or indirectly affected by what we are all facing through this devastating coronavirus pandemic," Mrs Tritton said.

"We are here to provide whatever support and care we can."

*For more information: Evelyn Santoro – 0411 142 660*

Macquarie Park  
North Ryde

Frenchs Forest  
Davidson

Field of Mars  
Ryde

Gore Hill  
St Leonards

Sandgate  
Newcastle