



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

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Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pensioners call for health and police investigations into state's crematoria

“Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA) calls on the Minister for Health to investigate reports of scandalous practices at the Pine Grove Memorial Park in Western Sydney,” said CPSA Policy Manager, Paul Versteege today.

“The alleged abuses at Pine Grove suggest these types of things might be going on at other crematoria as well.”

“Claims about simultaneous cremations and disposal of human ashes to garbage bins also raise the question as to whether crematoria might be performing illegal and unscheduled cremations.”

“What assurances can the Government give that persons who have gone missing in suspicious circumstances did not end up cremated at places like Pine Grove?”

“What, if any, checks and balances are in place?”

“Following the recent Funeral Inquiry, CPSA was disappointed by the Minister for Fair Trading's response. The Minister refused to do anything, except introduce a legal requirement for funeral directors to itemise their quotes.”

“In the words of the Minister for Fair Trading: “It has not been demonstrated to the Government that there is widespread market failure in the funeral industry.”

“Following the Pine Grove revelations, the Minister for Fair Trading might want to have another think about that.”

“CPSA calls on the Government to revisit the recommendations of the Funeral Inquiry chaired by Democrat Arthur-Chesterfield-Evans and regulate this out-of-control industry.”

ENDS

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