

BEECHWORTH CEMETERY TRUST

ADMIN INSTRUCTION 1/2012

POOR PERSONS' BURIALS

INTRODUCTION

1. By order of the Magistrates' Court or a coroner, the Cemetery Trust is obliged to inter the bodily remains or ashes of a deceased poor person free of charge. The Trust may also be required to place a plaque on the place of interment of the deceased poor person free of charge.
2. Alternatively, the Trust may be approached directly by a Funeral Director, or family members and friends of the deceased, requesting that the Trust waive or reduce its fees in relation to a burial on the grounds of extreme hardship or other special circumstances.

PROCEDURE

3. All requests are to be made in writing to the Trust providing details of the grounds of extreme hardship or other special circumstances. Decisions of the Trust will be made on a case by case basis.
4. After all due enquiries have been made by the Secretary, and with the agreement of at least two other Trust members (one preferably being the Trust Chairperson), there are two courses of action open to the Trust:
 - A. The Trust may invoke the provisions of Section 44 of the Act to either waive or reduce the cemetery fees; or
 - B. Through the Secretary, the Trust may direct the family members/friends of the deceased (or Funeral Director acting on their behalf) to make application depending on the circumstances to one or more of the following agencies:
 - (i) **The Magistrates' Court or coroner** for an order directing the Trust to inter the remains of the deceased poor person free of charge. (Prior to giving such direction the court or coroner must be satisfied that neither the deceased nor their relatives are able to pay the interment expenses).
 - (ii) **Bereavement Assistance Ltd** - a charitable organisation that provides funeral services for people who are unable to meet funeral costs.
 - (iii) **State Trustees** who can assist where a family is unable to pay the costs of a funeral. (The agency assesses each case and if the criteria are met, will assist with funeral costs).
 - (iv) **Centrelink** who can provide bereavement payments.
 - (v) **Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs** who provide financial assistance and support to families of Australian war veterans.

DESIGNATED BURIAL AREAS

5. An area has been set aside for the purpose of the burial of bodily remains of deceased poor persons - *Strangers Area, Section A*.
6. Should the family members/friends of the deceased (or Funeral Director acting on their behalf) request that the burial/interment take place in a nominated denominational area rather than the abovementioned designated area, consideration may be given by the Trust.
7. The Trust shall comply with any order issued by the Magistrates' court or coroner relating to grave location.

Authority: A. Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003 - Sects 44 & 142-145
B. Beechworth Cemetery Trust meeting held 21/5/2012