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NEW SOUTH WALES JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES LTD

The Representative Organisation of NSW Jewry

ועד הקהילה היהודית בנג. ס.וו.

President: Lesli Berger
Chief Executive Officer: Vic Alhadeff



7 May 2021

Funerals Review
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop
Sydney NSW 1240

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Review of Competition, Cost and Pricing in the NSW Funeral Industry Introduction

The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies is the official elected representative roof-body of the Jewish Community in New South Wales, with 55 major Jewish organisations in NSW as its constituents. It is recognised by the NSW State Government, its agencies, the media and other ethnic and religious groups as the representative body of the Jewish Community and speaks on its behalf on all matters affecting the status, welfare and interests of New South Wales Jewry.

In relation to this submission, we also represent the Sydney Chevra Kadisha, which alone provides burials to the NSW Jewish community.

We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to assist with the review of Competition, Cost and Pricing in the NSW Funeral Industry.

Overall Observation

We appreciate the importance of the draft recommendations, particularly for those consumers who benefit greatly from informed choice as to their funeral and burial options.

That said, there needs to be an explicit acknowledgment upfront in the report that for many faith communities there may be few, or in the case of the Jewish community, only one, provider of religiously compliant funeral services.

The draft recommendations

We ask that draft recommendation 3 require that the Consumer Guide specifically refer to faith-based requirements and identify for consumers that not all commercial providers comply with faith-based requirements for funerals and burials.

In identifying that there is a choice between burial or cremation, it is important that the report explicitly recognise that for some faith communities, including ours, cremation is not an option.

We ask that you recommend also that faith community providers should be listed in a directory. In the case of the Jewish community, only one listing is required, namely, the Sydney Chevra Kadisha.

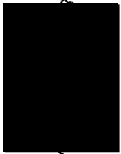
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Pricing

It is important to note that in terms of the price and payment data collected by IPART, the Sydney Chevra Kadisha's pricing is at the lower end of the range. That reflects the benefit of having a single community provider which is not-for-profit and in respect of which there is no duplicated infrastructure.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, and look forward to receiving a copy of the final report in due course.

Yours faithfully,



Lesli Berger, President

cc. Sydney Chevra Kadisha, David D. Knoll AM