

PROCEDURE TO APPOINT MEDICAL REFEREES

Under Part 6 of the *Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2002* there are a number of procedures in relation to cremation that can only be completed by a medical referee.

Clause 42 of the regulation states that a person may perform the functions of a medical referee if the person is:

- (a) medical officer of health, or
- (b) a medical practitioner who has been appointed by the Director-General

The Director-General's authority under clause 42 *Public Health (Disposal of Bodies) Regulation 2002* has been delegated to:

- Chief Health Officer
- Deputy Chief Health Officer and Director Health Protection
- Director South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit

Appointment procedure:

1. An application for appointment as a medical referee should be made on the form provided. (See attached)
2. Application should be addressed to the Director South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit, and marked for the attention of Mr Santo Cannata.
3. A person who is appointed as a medical referee is required to be legally qualified and registered as a medical practitioner with the New South Wales Medical Registration Board.
4. A nominated medical referee must satisfy the requirement that the medical practitioner has practiced medicine for at least three years during the last five years.
5. The medical practitioner will be advised of his/her appointment as a medical referee in writing.
6. The NSW Health Department is to maintain a register of medical referees and update a register quarterly. The list of medical referees, by Surname and by Suburb in NSW, is available on:
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-ealth/ehb/general/funeral/funeral.html>
7. The NSW Health Department distributes quarterly a list of recently appointed Medical Referees and an up-to-date register of medical referees in NSW to:
 - Members of Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of NSW
 - Executive Secretary, Australian Funeral Directors Association NSW
 - Public Health Units
 - Funeral Industry Association
 - Funeral and Allied Industries Union NSW

8. NSW Health Department liaises with the Medical Registration Board as to audit the Medical Registration Number and correct address of practice.
9. Appointed medical referees should immediately notify Department of Health of any change of address or retirement.