



## *Centennial Park*

**CENTENNIAL PARK**  
Conducts personal guided  
tours by appointment.

They include Centennial  
Park facilities, Chapels  
and memorial gardens and  
provide an insight into the  
workings of Australia's most  
highly regarded Cemetery  
and Crematorium.

To book a tour, contact  
Centennial Park during  
business hours.

### **CENTENNIAL PARK CEMETERY AUTHORITY**

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## *Questions & Answers*

ANSWERS TO THE MOST ASKED QUESTIONS AT CENTENNIAL PARK



[www.centennialpark.org](http://www.centennialpark.org)



## Chapel - Funeral Service Questions & Answers

### Answers to the Frequently Asked Questions at Centennial Park

**W**hen our customers come to enquire about the many services available at Centennial Park, there are often many unknowns, questions can be difficult to ask and sometimes it is not clear what questions need to be asked.

Our many years of experience have taught us that questions about burial and cremation require direct answers.

At Centennial Park Cemetery we are committed to showing dignity and respect for grieving family and friends.

Should you have any questions that are not answered in this brochure or require more information about any matter such as our regular guided tours, please ask our staff – you will find a caring and sensitive approach to your needs.



**Q. How soon should a funeral be arranged and how is this organised?**

Arrangements through a Funeral Director will need to be organised. Discuss with them how soon you wish the service to take place, whom you wish to officiate at the service and the type of service you wish to have. Your Funeral Director will make these arrangements on your behalf.

**Q. What is the procedure in the chapel on the day of the funeral?**

The coffin is usually brought into the chapel and placed on the catafalque at the front of the chapel before the family and friends enter for the service. Alternatively arrangements can be made to have the coffin carried in to the chapel as part of the service. At the appropriate time during the service, the coffin is removed from view by being lowered or if you prefer may remain on the catafalque until the family and friends have left the chapel.

**Q. Can personal mementos be buried or cremated with the deceased?**

Yes, although you should discuss this with your Funeral Director to ensure the item(s) will not be a potential hazard. Although it is common to leave a wedding ring on, most items of value are passed on as heirlooms.

**Q. Can the casket be open during a service in the chapel?**

Yes, this can be arranged in conjunction with your Funeral Director.

**Q. What music is available for the service?**

Suitable music is provided in the chapels as a background to the proceedings. Equipment is available whereby your own music may be played. There is also an organ available in each chapel for your use.

**Q. Can the service be recorded?**

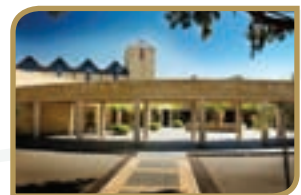
Centennial Park can offer a service package which allows for the funeral service to be professionally video recorded.

**Q. Are there facilities available at the chapel to meet after the service?**

Each chapel at Centennial Park has lounge facilities where tea, coffee and biscuits are served. Other catering arrangements can be made in consultation with your Funeral Director.

**Q. Can the chapels be used for a burial service?**

Yes, both the chapel and lounge facilities may be used in conjunction with a burial interment.





# Cremation

## Questions & Answers



**Q. What happens to the coffin at the completion of the cremation committal service and does the cremation take place immediately after the service?**

The coffin is lowered to the Chapel service area, where the nameplate is checked. The coffin is then transported by Centennial Park staff to the crematorium, which is in a separate building 200 metres from the Chapel Complex. The cremation will follow as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.

**Q. Is the coffin cremated with the body and is there more than one coffin cremated at one time?**

The coffin is cremated with the body and the size of the cremator does not permit more than one coffin to be cremated at any given time.

**Q. What happens with the handles and other fittings?**

Most fittings are plastic and are cremated with the coffin. Metal fittings are removed as they can damage the cremator. These metal fittings are not re-used.

**Q. Do pacemakers or radioactive implants need to be removed before cremation?**

Yes, these implants can explode at high temperatures, not only causing damage to the cremator, but also placing crematorium staff at some physical risk.

**Q. Can relatives witness the committal of the coffin into the cremator?**

People who wish to view the coffin being placed into the cremator are able to do so in a special room adjacent to the cremator. Advance notice for this service is required.

**Q. What happens at the end of cremation?**

The remains are removed from the cremator and placed in a cooling container. When cool, any metal objects such as nails, screws or artificial joints are removed while the remains are reduced to a granular state.

**Q. How many people are cremated in South Australia each year?**

As a result of the approximately 12,000 deaths in South Australia each year there are 6,500 cremations. This represents an overall average for South Australia of 54%. In Adelaide, where cremation facilities are more readily available, the rate approaches 70%.

**Q. Are there religious groups which prohibit cremation for their members?**

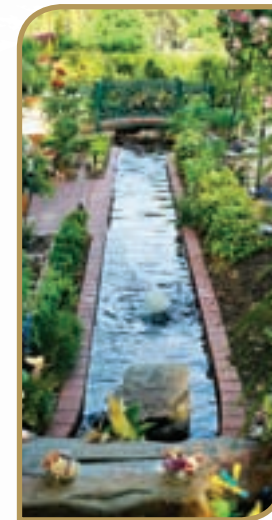
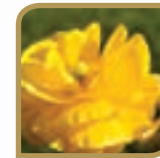
Cremation is prohibited by Orthodox Jews, Muslims and some other religions. Most Christian denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church allow cremations. Cremations are the preferred option for Sikhs, Hindus, Parsees and Buddhists.

**Q. If I wanted to know more about cremation and inspect the crematorium, how should I go about it?**

Contact Centennial Park and we shall be pleased to discuss the matter and answer your questions. A tour of the chapel and Crematorium facilities can also be arranged. Public tours are conducted on the first Thursday of each month by prior arrangement. If a personal tour is required, please contact us.

**Q. How can I ensure that I am cremated when I die?**

Clear instructions in writing should be given to the person responsible for arranging your funeral. These instructions however, are not binding in law unless written in your will. A will is not by itself sufficient to ensure cremation as a funeral may take place before the contents of the will are known.





## Burial Questions & Answers



### **Q. How is the grave dug?**

Centennial Park is designed to allow for complete mechanical digging of rectangular graves using a zero swing excavator and front end loader to fill.

### **Q. How many people can be buried in a grave?**

More than one burial is possible in each grave. Advance arrangements are often made where families wish to be placed together. Up to three burials can be accommodated in each grave.

### **Q. What happens when Centennial Park runs out of space?**

Our re-use of graves policy and constant planning together with management of the available resources ensures that Centennial Park will always provide burial and cremation memorials and renewal tenure in South Australia.

### **Q. What happens to a grave if the tenure is expired and there are no family members?**

Our re-use of graves policy allows for a period of 2 years after the licence tenure has expired. If the position is required by another family and the expiry date is over 2 years, Management and the Board of Centennial Park can authorise that the burial remains be placed at a lower level in the grave. The headstone is photographed (which is placed on our records) and then taken from the park and destroyed. All re-use of expired graves is at the discretion of the Board and Management of Centennial Park.



## Memorial Questions & Answers

### **Q. What memorials are available?**

Memorials are offered in niche walls, rose gardens, garden borders, under trees and garden seats. The minimum tenure for a cremation memorial is 30 years and may be renewed periodically.

### **Q. What happens to a memorial position if the tenure is expired and there are no other family members?**

Our expired sites policy allows for a period of 2 years after the licence tenure has expired. If the position is required by another family and the expiry date is over 2 years, Management and the Board of Centennial Park can authorise that the cremated remains be placed into an unmarked location within the grounds at Centennial Park and the plaque is donated to the Educational Trust Fund. All re-use of expired sites is at the discretion of the Board and Management of Centennial Park.

### **Q. Who gets to be a licensee and what are the responsibilities?**

Whoever organises a memorial position can be the licence holder. Only the licence holder has the right to relinquish the licence or to make any changes to the position i.e; replacement plaque or to transfer the licence to another person.

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