



## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NATURAL BURIAL GROUNDS

For members of **The Natural Death Advocacy Network (NDAN)**

The Committee of the Natural Death Advocacy Network are delighted to introduce this Code of Conduct for Natural Burial Ground members of NDAN, the professional body supporting the natural burial movement.

Through membership of NDAN and the resulting adherence to the Code, Natural Burial Ground Members will ensure that the public can have full confidence in the integrity of the provider and the quality of services offered by them.

All NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will make a copy of this Code of Practice available to their clients and will have copies available for others on request.

This Code represents the minimum standards of conduct expected of operators. Failure to meet these standards should be brought to the attention of NDAN.

A failure not to follow any guidance associated with the Code, or not to rectify any non-compliance, is a factor that will be considered should it be necessary to examine the conduct of a member.

### **The NDAN Code of Conduct 2023**

In addition to complying with all relevant legislation, and specifically that concerned with planning, record keeping, and the financial probity of owners, directors and trustees, NDAN Natural Burial Ground members undertake to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

1. Each burial ground will have clear published information on the following subjects and policies for the public to make a proper and informed decision before proceeding:

The Natural Death Advocacy Network  
C/o Po Box 508, Kingston Tasmania 7050  
w: [www.ndan.com.au](http://www.ndan.com.au) e: [contact@ndan.com.au](mailto:contact@ndan.com.au) t: 0417 307 658

- a) Description of the site (topography)
- b) Location (including directions and details of any public transport links)
- c) Site Owner (including whether the site is freehold or leasehold, and length of lease if appropriate)
- d) Site Operator (including contact details)
- e) Type of plots available (including whether or not plots may be purchased in advance)
- f) Burial Rights (including time limits)
- g) Gravedigging (including methods used and options for families)
- h) Embalming (including details of exceptional circumstances under which embalmed bodies may be accepted)
- i) Memorials (including types and options available)
- j) On site facilities (including car parking, shelter, rooms, chapels, toilets, mortuary facilities, what is and is not provided)
- k) Coffins / shrouds permitted (including types of materials allowed in their construction)
- l) Details of the future of the site, its objectives, maintenance, and management.

## 2. Environment

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will take all reasonable steps to conserve existing local wildlife, promote biodiversity and manage their projects according to sound sustainable and ecological principles including:

- Conduct ecological impact assessments and native flora and fauna surveys where practical;
- Restrict access to burials in identified sensitive areas;
- Limit the type and size of memorials so as not to impair the ecological climate of the space;
- Limit the number of and location of burials so as not degrade the local ecosystem;
- Have strategies that conserve and enhance the natural environment.

Members will also take all reasonable steps to identify and preserve archaeological remains.

## 3. Choice

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will be transparent as to whether they require families to use a funeral director for a burial or not. (Guidance to the public on organising funerals without using a funeral director is available from the NDAN and the Australian Home Funeral Alliance).

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NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will be open to clients and families being involved in the digging and/or backfilling of graves, in keeping with State Law, where possible.

3. Prices

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will provide fully itemised prices lists for potential clients on request and will also provide these prices on the telephone or by e-mail on request.

4. Coffins and shrouds

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will not require that a coffin or casket be used - bodies will be accepted or burial wrapped in a shroud or an alternative biodegradable container or wrapping. Where a coffin is chosen, members will require the use of environmentally friendly coffins and natural materials.

5. Toxic chemicals

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will only accept embalmed bodies for burial in exceptional circumstances such as repatriation.

6. Feedback

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will provide each client with the NDAN feedback form for return direct to NDAN and ensure they are advised that any further comments can be made directly to the Natural Death Advocacy Network either online, by phone or by post.

7. Complaints handling

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will operate a Complaints Handling procedure of a kind acceptable to NDAN. They will advise clients of their right to complain, and the process for doing so.

8. Training

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will ensure that all staff are properly trained and competent to do their work.

9. Solvency

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will ensure that their finances are always managed appropriately.

10. Advertising

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NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will promote their amenities and services in a truthful and responsible manner.

11. Contingency Arrangements

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will have in place appropriate arrangements to cover the event of the operator's death or incapacity or other extended absences.

12. Information

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will submit such information about their activities and in such form as the NDAN shall reasonably require.

13. Co-operation

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will co-operate with NDAN, which reserves the right to check on member's compliance to the code at any time.

14. Integrity

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will always act with integrity and avoid conflicts of interest and any actions or situations inconsistent with professional operations.

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will require a declaration from the family and/or funeral director declaring the integrity of the preparation of the body and the contents of the coffin (NDAN can provide this form).

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will work with families to meet their needs and honor their circumstances in the most appropriate way possible.

15. Competence

NDAN Natural Burial Ground members will carry out their work with due skill, care, and diligence and with proper regard to the standards expected of them.