

## Culturally Specific Interments

Coffs Harbour is a vibrant and inclusive area, which prides itself on fostering a sense of community, belonging and diversity. As a culturally diverse community, Council offers a range of burials to accommodate religious and cultural practices such as Aboriginal smoking ceremonies, Chinese monumental burials, and Islamic burials.

Chinese monumental burials and Islamic burials can be performed in the Woolgoolga Monumental Cemetery and Bucca Cemetery only because of the specific requirements concerning headstone plaques at the Coffs Harbour Lawn Cemetery.

The Woolgoolga Monumental Cemetery has a designated section for Islamic burials with the graves orientated in the direction of Qiblah (Mecca).

We can accommodate an Al-Shaqq grave, however the use of an Al-Lahed grave - a vertical hole in the ground with a side horizontal space for the Janaza (deceased) - is unfortunately not permitted by NSW Ministry of Health public health legislation. Similarly, mourners are not permitted to enter the grave prior to burial.

Where cultural practices require burial of the deceased within 24 hours of an individual's passing, Council staff will work closely with the funeral director to accommodate this request. It should be noted that, due to the need to rearrange burial schedules, additional charges will be incurred on all burials after 3.30pm on weekdays, weekends and public holidays.

We also work closely with local funeral directors to accommodate specific burial requests and mourning practices where possible, with regard to workplace health and safety requirements.

Please feel free to contact Council on 02 6648 4000 should you have any questions or concerns regarding the operation of Council's cemeteries.