



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Cremation Amendment Regulations 2026

Portfolio Associate Health (Hon Matt Doocey)

On 2 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in July 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee agreed to amend the Cremation Regulations 1973 to make permanent a more streamlined process for authorising cremation in lower-risk settings [SOU-25-MIN-0091];
- 2 **agreed** that the more streamlined process for authorising cremation should be applied in settings which provide specialised palliative care rather than hospice care more broadly;
- 3 **agreed** that the role of a health practitioner advising a medical or nurse practitioner should be to confirm that the circumstances of the death are consistent with natural causes, rather than confirming that a deceased died of natural causes;
- 4 **agreed** to amend the Cremation Regulations 1973 to allow modern battery powered devices, such as newer types of pacemakers that do not require removal prior to cremation, to remain present in a body being cremated;
- 5 **agreed** to amend the Cremations Regulations 1973 to align with the role of a medical or nurse practitioner authorising cremation, which is to identify whether a battery-powered device is present that requires removal, rather than certifying that they have removed the device;
- 6 **noted** that the Cremation Amendment Regulations 2026 give effect to the decisions above;
- 7 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Cremation Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28402/11.0];
- 8 **noted** that the Cremations Amendment Regulations 2026 will come into force on 7 May 2026.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Attendance (see over)

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith MP
Jamie Arbuckle MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG

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