

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

27 June 2023

The Community Advisory Committee (or CAC) is a statutory subcommittee of the Board and advises the Board on issues of concern to the community regarding the cemetery or crematoria services. The committee has no operational functions: it does not run or manage anything. Recent events have led the committee to refine its approach to community engagement, as I will explain.

In the 2021/2022 financial year the committee advised the Board on its new strategic plan, providing many amendments while at the same time supporting the broad directions of the plan. In that plan one of the goals is “connect and engage with our communities”. The purpose of that goal is to improve the connection with the various wide-spread communities RPCV services and engage with those communities about issues which matter to them.

This type of engagement is a major endeavour which cannot be achieved through a committee alone. It requires the full resources of RPCV, led by a CEO who has a supportive attitude towards community engagement. Such a CEO will, I know, be fully backed by the Board in leading this important work.

We expect that this community engagement work will be of a type suggested to the Board by the Community Advisory Committee at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year. The CAC advised the Board that community engagement by RPCV needed to be purposeful, genuine, inclusive, and provide the community with regular updates.

In April, RPCV published 12 recommendations arising from the Robertson report into the tragic and appalling events of earlier this year. CAC views itself as having a watching brief focusing on three of the recommendations in particular: the adornment issues, community engagement and the involvement of volunteers. This means providing detailed constructive advice and criticism to the Board about how these recommendations should be carried out and are being carried out.

With all this in mind, the CAC has provided advice to the Board that the new CEO must understand the urgency of the need to connect to the community better, have the skills to lead this, and see the community as a partner in improving services to the community. The Community Advisory Committee is looking forward to engaging directly with the new CEO, and supporting the Board as RPCV responds to the events of 2023.

Finally, I wish to thank members of the Community Advisory Committee and the Board for their support and endeavour.

Dr Dean Shirley  
Chair, Community Advisory Committee