

## MEDIA RELEASE

26 April 2023

### **IN HONOUR AND MEMORY OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES - SECOND ANNUAL ISLAMIC FAMILY DAY AT ROOKWOOD**

OneCrown Cemeteries will host the second annual **Islamic Family Day on Sunday, 30 April from 1:30pm to 4:00pm**, in recognition of the 112-year history between the Muslim community and **Rookwood General Cemetery** (Rookwood).

Members of the Muslim community and visitors are invited to the free annual community event, which includes guest speakers, free Halal cuisine, children's activities and a range of information from various Muslim groups and organisations.

The event will also see the official opening of the new amenities block with separate male and female Wudu facilities in Rookwood's Islamic burial grounds (Section 8), providing washing facilities designed specifically to accommodate the customs of the Islamic faith.

OneCrown Cemeteries Administrator, Lee Shearer, said the Islamic Family Day event is a unique way to bring Islamic families together, to reflect on their loved ones, with the support of the wider community around them.

"Rookwood is a very important public site serving the life cycle of Muslims in NSW. The people buried in the new cemetery came from all corners of the globe — Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and many more.

"Our Islamic Family Day acknowledges the mutually respectful partnership between Rookwood General Cemetery and the Islamic community in NSW over the past century, as we work together to provide culturally sensitive burials, care for graves and support the bereaved.

"The official opening of the new amenities block with Wudu facilities, is a significant milestone for both the Muslim community and Rookwood. We are very pleased to be able to open this facility in the presence of community members and leaders," Ms Shearer said.

The event is arranged in collaboration with Al Zahra Funeral Services, Lebanese Muslim Association, Muslim Cemeteries and Funeral Services Ltd, NSW United Turkish Islamic Centre and Sakina Funerals.

Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) President Hafez Alameddine said the collaborative effort by various Muslim groups and organisations in participating with the event, depicts a strong sense of community and support within the Islamic faith.

“A positive mindset and cultural change can have a significant impact on the success of organisations. When organisations such as the LMA and OneCrown Cemeteries undergo a positive mindset and cultural change, it can lead to better collaboration.

“Opening a utility block that respectfully considers religious requirements of having separate female and male Wudu facilities respects and improves services for our community,” Mr Alameddine said.

As a united entity, OneCrown Cemeteries remains committed to meeting the obligations assigned by the NSW Government, including ensuring the provision of available and affordable interments for all communities, equity for all religious and cultural beliefs, and long-term sustainability of our cemeteries.

Events such as the Islamic Family Day, provide a special way for the cemetery to acknowledge and connect with the Muslim community.

**Details:**

Second annual Islamic Family Day  
Sunday, 30 April from 1:30pm to 4:00pm  
Rookwood General Cemetery  
Islamic Section 8 and surrounding areas

**Ends**

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