

# Grave ban a 'breach of liberty'

By LLOYD GORMAN

**Nedlands MP Jonathan Huston has labelled a ban on a group providing information on Karrakatta Cemetery gravestones as a breach of “freedom of movement, speech and association”.**

Mr Huston went to Karrakatta on Mothers Day to join the group threatened with legal action if they set up an information stall.

A dozen members of Saving Family Headstones at Karrakatta were confronted with security guards and a police patrol when they went to the cemetery.

“I was very disappointed today – Mothers Day – that they were denied access to the cemetery, by application of a cemetery board by-law, referring to them committing a nuisance,” Mr Huston said.

“This is an open and shut case for the liberty of individual freedom of movement, speech and association.”

The group, which campaigns against the redevelopment of graves, wanted to set up at the Railway Road entrance to help people find loved ones and give out information about their group.

But Metropolitan Cemetery

Board CEO Kathlene Oliver told SFH@K its actions were not appropriate or authorised.

The group was threatened with legal action if it went ahead with the Mothers Day stall (*Grave concern over Mothers Day ban*, POST, May 10).

“Some of the members are homeless and near destitute,” Mr Huston said.

“As one lady said to me ‘I have no home, my family plot in there is the closest I have to something I can hold on to’.

“I was very proud to stand with them outside the gate. They could have caused a scene but did not.

“They have been denied access to preserving stones on ‘health and safety’ reasons.

“I sincerely question that opinion.

“These are the ‘forgotten people’ of 2025. But not on my watch.”

The group welcomed Mr Huston.

“We at SFH@K are very appreciative of your attendance today,” Graeme Martin said.

“It was good to have you listen to our concerns and to hear you speak with interest and learning what exactly

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⚡ This is an open and shut case for the liberty of individual freedom ⚡



Jonathan Huston with Tracey Joy West, middle, and her mother Kerry.

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goes on at Karrakatta rather than the complete denial and attacks and threats we are used to.”

Chez McCallum thanked him for standing with them.

“We sure do appreciate your common sense, the reality you hear and saw for yourself,” she said.

“You are a member of parliament who speaks our language and has an open heart for empathy and respect, as we do in this group.”

Anne McCrudden said about a dozen group members gathered peacefully

at the main entrance to the cemetery to support visitors and help people find graves.

“In response we were met with a visible presence of security guards and even a police patrol,” she said.

She claimed signs had just been erected at the cemetery warning against equipment and furniture, and signs or materials being allowed.

“Despite this overreach, the morning was heartening,” she said.

“Hundreds of cars streamed in with people honouring their mothers and grandmothers.”