



**Press Release from the Funeral Directors Association of NZ**

**5 March 2019**

## **Quinquennial Trans-Tasman Funeral Sector Conference**

The Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand (FDANZ) has today released details of the quinquennial Trans-Tasman Funeral Sector Conference.

The event is held alternately with Australia and taking place in Auckland on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 when over 270 funeral professionals from the both sides of the Tasman will be in attendance.

“Ever 5 years, New Zealand and Australia hold a joint conference and 2020 is our year.” says FDANZ President Gary Taylor, “Much is happening in the funeral sector right now and so this conference comes at an important time for both nations.” he said.

Key topics on the agenda include a review of the emergency response to both the Christchurch mosque attacks and the Whakaari White Island eruption. Both events triggered the NZ Funeral Disaster Response Team. FDANZ in partnership with the New Zealand Embalmers Association (NZEA) funds and operates the NZ Funeral Disaster Response Team. This team is led by Simon Manning of Harbour City Funerals who co-ordinated the funeral sector response to the Christchurch earthquake in 2011.

Manning will be presenting the findings of the review of both deployments.

“The funeral sector is currently looking at change and challenge through regulation” said FDANZ CEO David Moger, “so we have Paul Atkins from Zealandia sharing how they turned around to achieve global recognition. It’ll also be good to show our Australian colleagues how we are addressing sustainability here in NZ”.

NZ culture is high on the agenda too. “After the welcoming powhiri, TV Doco-Reality programme stars Francis and Kaioria Tipene from ‘The Casketeers’ will be on stage sharing their experiences of running a funeral business based in their Maori community”, said Taylor. “Australia has no equivalent, so once again NZ leads the way.” he added

**ENDS**

**For further information contact:**

Gary Taylor, FDANZ President on 027 222 3795

David Moger, FDANZ CEO on 021 622 523

The full conference programme can be viewed here: <https://www.fdanz.co.nz/conference-2020/>



The Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand represents funeral directing companies that undertake the majority of funerals in New Zealand. They are a group of caring professionals who are committed to ensuring that the families they serve receive high-quality funeral service. For more information, visit our website: [www.fdanz.org.nz](http://www.fdanz.org.nz)