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SPRINGVALE

# Cemetery's best to rest in peace

SPRINGVALE Botanical Cemetery has become the first cemetery outside the US to win *American Cemetery* magazine's excellence award.

The 170ha Princes Highway cemetery beat dozens of other cemeteries from around the world to nab the prestigious award, which is judged on community involvement, grounds maintenance, innovation, cemetery performance and team spirit.

The cemetery's chief operating officer Jane Grover said it honoured the diverse communities it served.

"We have the largest feng shui-designed Asian cemetery, the Song He Yuan within Springvale, and a number of other very special areas dedicated to the military and police force," Ms Grover said.

"We also have a children's lawn complete with playground, so siblings visiting can be entertained while parents have time for quiet reflection."

Executive director of *American Cemetery* Kates-Boylston Publications said the Springvale cemetery stood out because it "exemplifies that cemeteries can continue to be relevant and beautiful."

Health Minister David Davis said it was easy to see why the cemetery was so highly regarded.

"This site also provides a range of interment and other services to cater to Melbourne's diverse communities," Mr Davis said.