

Voiceover:

This is the first time Paula Ng has gone to Tung Lung Chau to mourn her late husband who died in April.

Ms Ng's husband said he wanted to be buried at sea.

Paula Ng (translation) :

My husband suffered from cancer. When he was in his final days, treatments didn't help much.

When we asked him about his funeral arrangement, he suggested scattering his ashes at sea. We respected his wishes.

Voiceover:

Ms Ng decided to mourn her husband by putting up a photo of him at home. This helped her feel as though she could talk to him every day.

Paula Ng (Translation):

I have a photo of him at home. I talk to him after I wake up every morning and say goodbye to him when I leave.

Sometimes when I go to the seaside, I will talk to him like he is around me.

Voiceover:

The Food & Environmental Hygiene Department has been providing services for scattering cremated human ashes at sea since 2012, by deploying a vessel which can accommodate more than 300 passengers.

It has run a second boat service since the 2014 Ching Ming Festival, allowing even more families to mourn at the designated areas where they previously scattered remains, during grave-sweeping seasons.

A funeral director is on board to oversee memorial ceremonies. There are also facilities to accommodate different religious rituals.

Cheng Lai-chun's mother was an Indonesian-born Chinese resident living in Hong Kong. She also expressed her wish to have her ashes scattered at sea.

Cheng Lai-chun (Translation):

My mum did not want us to use other ways to bury her. She thought that grave sweeping might be a burden for us if we just went with tradition. She believed that scattering her remains at sea could help her to travel back to her home town in Indonesia.

Voiceover:

There were 4,000 cases of scattering remains at sea and in the city's eight gardens of remembrance in 2015, accounting for 8.7% of total deaths.

A significant increase on the 4.6% figure for 2010.

Pang Chun-kau (Translation):

Some of my friends understood it may take a long time waiting for the allocation of public niches and it might also be expensive to rent private niches. If the environment of the gardens of remembrance is good it will be more acceptable to scatter remains here.

Voiceover:

The Government has been promoting green burials by arranging visits to gardens of remembrance.

The Food & Environmental Hygiene Department Superintendent Leung Yat-king:

We have increased our resources to enhance our promotion of green burial that include the launch of exhibitions, seminars and talks, production and broadcast of promotional videos, distribution of publicity materials, hanging of posters and banners, and collaboration with non-governmental organisations.

Voiceover:

To further boost green burial awareness, the Food & Environmental Hygiene Department promotions not only target the elderly, but also the middle-aged and teenagers. It will also work closely with cremation service providers, religious groups and hospitals to promote green burials.