

“ Let mourning stop
when one’s grief is fully
expressed.”

CICERO

For further information
about the programme
please contact the
Coordinator Family
Bereavement Support
Programme

Ph: 9345 6111

Social Work Department
Royal Children's Hospital

“Living through and coping
with the death of a child
certainly changes your
outlook on life. Even
though you think you can’t
possibly survive you do” ...
a mother who is bereaved
speaking about her
experience of grief.

“The true way to mourn
the dead is to care for the
living who belong to
them.”

- Edmund Burke

Social Work Department
Royal Children's Hospital



*Family
Bereavement
Support
Programme*

Social Work Department
Royal Children's Hospital

The death of a child brings a profound grief. The child's family and community will be affected in unique and enduring ways.

The experience of grief may be unsettling and isolating. As families who are bereaved find ways of living with their loss and the changes it brings, additional resources may be helpful to them.

The Family Bereavement Support Programme of the Social Work Department, Royal Children's Hospital has for many years accompanied and supported families who are bereaved.



The Family Bereavement Support Programme Services include:

- ◆ Bereavement counselling , support and information for families who have experienced the death of a child.
- ◆ A Monthly Evening Parents' Bereavement Support Group which offer:
 - Information
 - Encouragement
 - Support
 - A safe place to explore experiences
 - Opportunity to lessen isolation
 - A place to discover resources, share and develop ways of living with grief.
- ◆ Recently Bereaved Parents' Support and Information Nights.
- ◆ Monthly Bereavement Newsletter which provides:
 - A tangible record for the group
 - A means of communication and expressions of experience
- ◆ Annual Sibling Bereavement Support Groups:
 - To provide a safe environment to meet and share with other children and to strengthen personal resources.
- ◆ Occasional Groups for Grandparents who are bereaved.
- ◆ Annual Memorial Service conducted jointly with hospital chaplains.
- ◆ Referrals to specialised community support services.
- ◆ Suggestions about helpful resources.
- ◆ Education, information and support to Hospital staff, students and the community around bereavement issues