

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

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

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



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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 include:

Bereavement counselling, support and information for families who have experienced the death of a child.

Monthly Evening Parent Bereavement Support Groups which offer:

- Information
- Encouragement
- Support
- A safe place to explore experiences
- Opportunity to lessen isolation
- A place to discover resources and to share and develop ways of living with grief.

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.
- Annual Memorial Service

Referrals to specialised community support services.

Suggestions about helpful resources.

Education, information and support to Hospital staff, students and the community around bereavement issues.