Support services for practitioners working with the bereaved

Practitioner telephone consultancy service

Providing advice and consultation for health professionals (1300 858 113, Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm).

Internships

Supervised counselling placements are available for suitably qualified and experienced health professionals.

Practitioner associates

Opportunities are available for qualified bereavement counsellors to gain experience by working in a voluntary capacity for the Centre.

Support group facilitators

Training and ongoing support for professionals and non-professionals to work voluntarily in our bereavement support group program.

Newsletters

- Bereavement Practice for Clinicians and Service Providers (three per year)
- Bereavement Practice in Palliative Care (two per year).

The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement is not a crisis support service. In an emergency please call 000 or if you require urgent counselling, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.

The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.
Bereavement Counselling and Support Service

The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement (ACGB) operates a statewide Specialist Bereavement Counselling and Support Service for Victoria. This program is funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health and provides support for bereaved clients as well as bereavement advice and consultation to workers in other settings.

Services include:
- counselling
- support groups
- written resources
- remembrance events
- practitioner consultation and support.

Services are available in:
- metropolitan Melbourne
- regional Victoria (Gippsland, Barwon South-West, Hume, Grampians, and Loddon Mallee)

About bereavement counselling

Counselling is a confidential discussion between client and counsellor. It includes both education and support and can be useful early in the grief experience, or years later.

The service offers office-based bereavement counselling for:
- individuals
- couples and families
- children and adolescents.

Who is eligible?

Bereavement counselling is available for anyone in the community, including children and adolescents, who need support following the death of someone close to them. Interpreting services can be arranged if required. Anyone with drug, alcohol or mental health issues can access the service as long as these conditions are being managed.

What does it cost?

ACGB charges fees in accordance with the health and community services schedule. This fee is dependent on income and personal circumstances and will be determined when you make an appointment.

I definitely needed to air my story of grief and counselling provided a forum where I could do that. Being able to laugh and cry and being listened to and understood - someone to talk to who did not downplay or dismiss the grief experience.

(ACGB Client)

How do I make an appointment?

Counselling appointments can be made by calling the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement on (03) 9265 2100. The office is open Monday–Friday (9am–5pm).

Support services for the bereaved community

Bereavement Support Groups – These groups are for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one, whether that loved one be a family member, relative, friend, neighbour or work colleague. There are groups for different ages, catering to the varying needs of adults, children and young people.

The Rosemary Branch – A newsletter for the bereaved community.

Remembrance Events – For clients of the Centre.

Lending library – A range of books are available for clients and practitioners of the Centre.

Written resources – Materials on a range of bereavement topics are available to the general public and professionals.

Volunteering opportunities – Available for bereaved people who wish to become involved in the implementation of programs and services.

Bereavement Information and Referral Telephone Service – For the general public (1300 664 786 – toll free, Victoria).

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(ACGB Client)