



# Preparing for your baby's funeral

## Following the loss of your baby

We acknowledge your profound loss and grief at this time. We have designed this brochure as a short guide to help you make the best choices about how you will honour your baby and remember his/her life.

Your baby's funeral is the last physical care you will give your baby. This is a time for well-informed and considered choices. Take your time; be led by your heart to do what you feel is best for you, your baby and your family. Our Pastoral Care team can assist and support you in this process.

## Pastoral Care Services

Our team is available to provide emotional and spiritual support at this time, as well as guidance in planning your baby's funeral.

### Our hours are:

Monday to Friday 8am–4pm  
Saturday, Sunday and public holidays  
(on call) 9am–5pm.

Phone (08) 6458 1726  
(08) 6458 1036

The Chapel (Level 1, A Block) and Salat Room (Lower ground, A Block) are open 24 hours a day.

Please respect any posted COVID-19 restrictions.

## Funeral or memorial services

Funeral director services are required if:

- your baby was stillborn at 28 weeks' gestation or greater, or
- your baby was born alive and died after birth.

You may find it helpful to have a discussion with a member of the Pastoral Care team before contacting a funeral director, as there are some important questions to consider and decide on before the first conversation.

## Important considerations

- What would I like for my baby – a burial or cremation?
- Do I want to take my baby back to country?
- What memories do I wish to create and how (flowers, candles, pictures, music, readings, poetry)?
- What type of service would I like?
  - » Religious or non-religious?
  - » Private or public?
- How can I involve my other children or family members?
- Who would I like to give the eulogy if I can't?



## What to ask the funeral director?

- How much will the funeral cost?
- Can you conduct the funeral according to our cultural requirements?
- Can we choose where the funeral will be?
- Can we have our own priest, chaplain, celebrant or family member conduct the service? Is there a fee for this?
- Can I see my baby again? Is more than one viewing possible? Can I dress my baby? Will I be charged for this?
- Are you experienced in conducting funerals for babies?

## Other services

Arrange for the funeral director of your choice to collect your baby from PathWest Perinatal Pathology at KEMH. Access is from Hensman Rd, Subiaco. Look for the PathWest sign.

For Aboriginal babies needing to go back to country and other babies needing to go to regional areas, Perinatal Pathology can arrange transport for your baby to a regional hospital.

Phone (08) 6458 2730

You may be eligible for financial assistance towards the cost of a funeral. Our welfare officer can provide you with further information.

Phone (08) 6458 2777



**Women and Newborn Health Service**  
King Edward Memorial Hospital  
📍 374 Bagot Road, Subiaco WA 6008  
☎ (08) 6458 2222  
🌐 kemh.health.wa.gov.au

Compiled by: Pastoral Care Services.  
Produced by: Women and Newborn Health Service

This document can be made available  
in alternative formats on request.

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## Choosing a funeral director

**Metropolitan Cemeteries Board**  
website ([www.mcb.wa.gov.au](http://www.mcb.wa.gov.au))

### Regional Cemeteries

Local shires are responsible for their cemeteries and they will be able to provide the names of registered funeral directors in your shire.

### Red Nose Grief and Loss

Arranging your child's funeral  
[www.rednosegriefandloss.org.au/support/article/arranging-your-childs-funeral](http://www.rednosegriefandloss.org.au/support/article/arranging-your-childs-funeral)

### SANDS

Planning a funeral during COVID-19  
[www.sands.org.au/news/changes-to-funerals-as-a-result-of-covid-19](http://www.sands.org.au/news/changes-to-funerals-as-a-result-of-covid-19)

Pastoral Care Services work in partnership with



Government of **Western Australia**  
North Metropolitan Health Service  
Women and Newborn Health Service



Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service