

Social Work Department



The Social Work Department provides help and advice to women and their families who are having treatment and care at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Our aim is to help women, and their babies, get the best care possible and to make sure they are referred to other services in the community, when needed.

Many women and families experience difficulties at different times when adjusting to parenthood or a diagnosis of ill health. We aim to support our patients and their families who are having trouble coping or are experiencing a crisis.

The staff in the Social Work Department include professionally educated social workers as well as a senior welfare officer and an Aboriginal liaison officer who works with Aboriginal families.

The Social Work team provide:

- Support, information and referral for people experiencing grief and loss or a serious illness.
- Help to cope with stress and anxiety caused by an illness, disability, pregnancy complications, mental health problems, trauma or trouble accessing services.
- Counseling and information about options and decisions regarding an unplanned pregnancy.

- Information and referral to services about parenting and other help in the community.
- Counseling and support for patients and families with personal and family relationship problems, family conflict and domestic violence issues.
- Assessment and referral for help with drug and alcohol issues.
- Help and support to families involved with community based agencies such as the
- Department for Child Protection and Family Support.
- Practical help to attend appointments or visit a baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, or to find accommodation and childcare for other children.

When to contact the Social Work Department

Please contact us as early as possible whenever you have a problem or issue.

In urgent situations there is a duty social worker available during office hours.

If you need practical help, ask to speak to the senior welfare assistant.

A family member may contact us on your behalf. Staff provide services to support the Gynecology and Oncology teams; Obstetric teams, including the Adolescent Clinic, Women and Newborn Drug and Alcohol Service, the Childbirth and Mental Illness Clinic, the Perinatal Loss Service and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

How to contact a social worker

The Social Work Department is located on the Lower Ground Floor of 'B' Block at the end of the corridor behind the lift (follow the grey line on the floor).

An appointment can be made by:

- Telephoning (08) 9340 2777 on Monday to Friday between 8.30am to 4.30pm.
- Visiting the Social Work Department in person.
- Asking your doctor, midwife, nurse or other health professional to refer you - they do not need to know why you wish to see us.

Our services are free and confidential.

Some useful information

The Social Work Department has brochures and information about:

- Counseling services
- Cancer support
- Drug and alcohol information and services
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Domestic violence
- The Department for Child Protection and Family Support
- Childcare options and family and parenting services
- Youth services
- Multicultural services

- Local accommodation
- Home help and other practical support services
- Emergency relief
- Centrelink assistance
- Birth registration
- Child support

Crisis Care (24 hours) (08) 9223 1111

Police for urgent matters 000

Domestic Violence Help Line (08) 9226 2370

Women and Newborn Health Library (08) 9340 1100

This information is available in alternative formats upon request

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