



# After the death of your baby

## Information for parents

This brochure comes to you at a time when you may be experiencing a wide range of feelings and trying to make decisions that are both important and unexpected.

The staff at KEMH acknowledge your loss and offer our condolences. We want to assist you by providing information that will help you understand our philosophy of care as well as support and provide comfort to you and your family.

There is no requirement to make hasty decisions. Your partner or a close relative is welcome to stay with you. You may invite relatives and/or friends to see and spend time with you and your baby.

Memories are very precious and we support families to create these by spending time with their baby. As this may be a new and emotional experience please feel comfortable to change your mind at any time. The staff will take photographs of your baby soon after birth and can assist you to bath, weigh and dress him/her, if you wish.

Mementos of your baby, such as hand and footprints, cot card and nameband will be collected and provided to you. We will also provide quilt and clothes for your baby or you can provide your own. Naming your baby and taking family photographs may also become treasured memories for you and your family.

## Your care team

<b>Perinatal Loss Service</b> (08) 6458 2222 page 3430 or (08) 6458 2128 M: 0416019020	The midwife coordinator will contact you to arrange an outpatient appointment at the Perinatal Loss Clinic, six to eight weeks following the birth of your baby.
<b>Midwives</b> (08) 6458 2128	A midwife will care for you each shift, and where possible, the same ones will care for you each day until you return home.
<b>Doctors</b> (08) 6458 2128	Several doctors will be caring for you. Their responsibilities include providing medical care and discussing possible reasons for your loss.
<b>Pastoral Care Team</b> (08) 6458 1036 (08) 6458 1726 page 1294	This team can help meet the spiritual and religious needs of you and your family, including offering appropriate rituals and expressions for your baby.
<b>Social Worker</b> (08) 6458 2777	The social worker can provide emotional support and information on the grief process and funerals, and assist with contacting support services and resources as required.
<b>Psychological Medicine</b> (08) 6458 1521	Clinical psychologists and psychiatrists can provide emotional support and strategies for adjusting to the death of your baby.



<b>Genetic Services</b> (08) 6458 1525	This team provides information, counselling and support following the diagnosis of a genetic condition, including the implications for future pregnancies.
<b>Perinatal Pathology</b> (08) 6458 2730	Perinatal Pathology staff will care for your baby's body and provide additional mementos of your baby, when requested. If you have given consent they will perform the post-mortem examination and provide follow up information.

## Information and resources

### Grief pack

This is yours to keep. It contains important information and a commemorative book for mementos.

### Recognition of Early Pregnancy Loss

If your baby's gestational age is less than 20 weeks, Births, Death & Marriages offers a recognition certificate for babies that are not able to be formally registered under the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act (1998)*. A recognition certificate is not a birth registration.

### Registration papers

If your baby's gestational age is over 20 weeks you are legally required to register your baby with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages - forms will be provided after the birth.

### Government assistance

You may be eligible for a Centrelink payment. The social worker can help you with these forms if needed.

### Post-mortem examination

You may be asked to consider a post-mortem examination of your baby. The doctor or midwife/nurse will discuss the benefits with you. The post-mortem coordinator is available to discuss any further questions.

### Funeral arrangements

The Chaplain or Pastoral Care representative and the Social Worker can provide information and discuss options for funeral arrangements

### Leaving the hospital

You may go home as soon as practicable providing there are no medical reasons that require you to stay.

A Hospital Midwife may visit you at home, if required. You should see your GP/Obstetrician/Midwife six weeks after the birth, or sooner as required, to ensure that your recovery is progressing well.

### Perinatal Loss Clinic

For King Edward Memorial Hospital patients the Perinatal Loss Clinic has been established to provide information and ongoing support to you and your family following the loss of your baby.

The team comprises an Obstetrician, Midwife, Paediatrician, Pastoral Care representative, Social Worker, Perinatal Pathologist and Psychologist.

The Perinatal Loss Clinic Midwife coordinator can be contacted for further information.

**Telephone:** (08) 6458 2222 page 3430  
or (08) 6458 2128

**Mobile:** 0416 019 020



## Women and Newborn Health Service

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