



# Interment of Ashes

## At King Edward Memorial Hospital's Memorial Garden

*The Interment of Ashes is a service to bury the ashes of stillborn babies up to 28 weeks of gestational life.*

*The service is an inclusive ritual offered monthly by Pastoral Care Services at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH).*

*The ritual acknowledges parents' emotional connection, marks a transition and completes the physical separation through incorporating their baby's ashes into a special garden dedicated to their memory.*

**The next Interment of Ashes service will be held in the Memorial Garden at 12.30pm on Thursday and will take approximately 30 minutes.**

Date:

The Memorial Garden is situated on the corner of Barker and Railway Roads in Subiaco (next to the WA Medical Museum).

As there is limited shelter in the garden, we suggest you come prepared for seasonal weather conditions. You are welcome to bring family and friends, including children.

It is our practice to read out the names of all whose ashes are to be interred; however, we require your consent to do this.

If you have given your baby a first name and would like to have it read out at the service, please inform Pastoral Care Services prior to the day by contacting the department on (08) 6458 1726 or (08) 6458 1036.

Following the service, the names of all whose ashes have been interred will be entered in the Memorial Garden Register, which is maintained by the Pastoral Care Department.

## Our babies remembered

We recognise this may be a painful and distressing time for you, which words cannot adequately describe. Many parents and families have reported that the service has been a significant event in their journey of healing memories and finding solace.

### Some of their comments are reflected below:

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*“Such a tiny life, such a huge impact.”*

*“What is part of us for however long, is us, and will forever be.”*

*“I don’t believe that time heals, but that with the passage of time we have found ways to adjust to our new reality. I’ll never forget my baby – his memory is part of me.”*

*“We are richer by far to have known you for a moment than to never have known you at all.”*

*“To us you will exist in the flowers, in the trees and all things of nature God has given to us.”*

*“You were all expectation, you became all memory.”*

*“Not long on this earth but always in our hearts.”*

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The KEMH Memorial Garden has special significance for many bereaved families and is maintained as a garden sanctuary, rather than a cemetery. For these reasons, we do not allow individual memorials, plaques and fixtures or toys to be left in the garden. However, flowers can be placed on the interment site at the end of the service, or at any other time.



### Women and Newborn Health Service

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Compiled by: Pastoral Care Services.

Produced by: Women and Newborn Health Service

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