



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



Pastoral Care Services

Following the loss
of your baby



Vision

We offer a gentle and compassionate presence, serving people during their life experiences by:

- Authentically listening
- Holding space
- Meeting people where they are at.

Mission

We are an integrated and respectful service that provides practical, emotional and spiritual support to every individual. We create a safe space for your unique and personal story to be shared. We welcome your full life experiences, partnering with you to explore options that establish meaning for you.

A representative from the Pastoral Care team at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) will meet with you to provide support, options for your baby and resources, according to your needs.

These encompass:

1. Listening in a caring, confidential, and respectful manner.
2. Assessing your spiritual or religious needs in relation to your loss.
3. Providing appropriate ceremonies and services to commemorate your baby as directed by you.
4. Discussing cremation or funeral options appropriate to your circumstances.
5. Providing you with bereavement support as required by you.



A service of naming and blessing or acknowledgement

This is a short service, held in the patient's room or the KEMH Sanctuary (Chapel), available to all who experience the loss of a baby. A certificate can also be provided.

Special remembrance

A special remembrance is an acknowledgement of pregnancy loss. Please contact Pastoral Care for more information.

Special remembrances are made during the Interment of Ashes service held monthly in the KEMH Memorial Rose Garden.



KEMH interment of ashes service

A monthly service to inter (bury) the ashes of stillborn babies up to 28 weeks gestation is held at KEMH. Babies are cremated together, and their ashes are interred together.

When: Usually the last Thursday of each month, except on public holidays and in December. Pastoral Care Services will give you the exact date.

Time: 12.30pm

Place: Memorial Rose Garden, corner Railway Parade and Barker Road, Subiaco

- If you would like the ashes of your baby to be included in this service, Pastoral Care will assist you to complete the Consent for Cremation form while you are an inpatient.
- Before you leave hospital, Pastoral Care will provide you with an information brochure showing the date of the interment of ashes service.
- There is no cost for this service.
- Parents and family members are welcome to attend the service.
- With your consent, the names of babies are read out during the service.
- After the service, the names of all whose ashes have been interred are recorded in a register that is maintained by Pastoral Care Services.
- The service is recorded and can be viewed on the KEMH website under Pastoral Care Services.

Scan the QR code to see the next interment of ashes service.



Separate ashes

If you do not wish to inter your baby's ashes in the KEMH Memorial Rose Garden, you can choose to have your baby cremated and collect the ashes from the hospital. Pastoral Care can help you record your choice on the Consent for Cremation form. If collecting your baby's ashes from Pastoral Care, expect to receive a phone call in about one to two weeks to arrange collection.

Collection hours are between 9.30am and 3.00pm, Monday to Friday. An appointment is required. Come to the main entrance and ask reception for Pastoral Care. Please remember to bring your copy of the Consent for Cremation form and photo ID. Please note: Ashes cannot be given to anyone other than the baby's mother without the mother's signed permission.



Funeral or memorial services

If your baby was stillborn at more than 28 weeks gestation or died any time after birth, the hospital is unable (by law) to cremate your baby. The services of a funeral director will be required. Pastoral Care will give you information regarding this.

You may find it useful to talk with a member of our team prior to phoning a funeral director. We can discuss options for planning a funeral for your baby and we will provide you with information that may be helpful when choosing a funeral director.

Your baby's funeral is important, so please take your time. Be led by your heart to do what you determine is best for you, your baby, and your family. Our Pastoral Care team can assist and support you in this process.

More more information please see our other brochure, *Preparing for your baby's funeral*.

Pastoral Care Services contact

Referral to our services for losses above 14 weeks gestation is routine. However, if you would appreciate a bedside visit, or if you have any questions or concerns, please call Pastoral Care Services on **(08) 6458 1726**.

Your Pastoral Care representative is

The information provided is for information purposes only. If you are a patient using this publication, you should seek assistance from a healthcare professional when interpreting these materials and applying them to your individual circumstances.

Grief support services

You may benefit from the services offered by external agencies that are experienced in supporting people through grief. We recommend the following free services as a starting point for information and assistance:

Red Nose Grief and Loss

Phone: 1300 308 307

rednosegriefandloss.com.au

The Pink Elephants Support Network

pinkelephants.org.au

Stillbirth Foundation Australia

stillbirthfoundation.org.au

Pregnancy and Infant Loss

Remembrance Day Service

october15th.com



Women and Newborn Health Service

King Edward Memorial Hospital

📍 374 Bagot Road, Subiaco WA 6008

☎ (08) 6458 2222

✉ kemhpastoralcare@health.wa.gov.au

🌐 kemh.health.wa.gov.au

Compiled by: Pastoral Care Services

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