



# Pastoral Care Services

## Pregnancy Choices and Abortion Care

### Pastoral Care Services

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 alongside you to explore options that establish meaning for you.

Using a trauma-informed approach, the pastoral care team will provide information to inform your choices regarding cremation options. Other ways in which we might support you include:

- Authentically listening
- Holding space
- Meeting you where you are at.

### KEMH Interment of Ashes (IOA) Service

This is a monthly gathering to inter (bury) the ashes of stillborn babies and pregnancies ended in abortion, up to 27 weeks and six days gestation. They are cremated together and their ashes are interred together.

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

**Time:** 12.30pm

**Place:** Memorial Garden, corner Railway and Barker Roads, Subiaco

If cremation at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) is possible, Pastoral Care Services will help you complete the Consent for Cremation form while you are an inpatient.



Please note:

- Signed consent is required to guarantee ashes are interred in the Memorial Garden.
- We will provide you with a brochure showing the IOA service date before you leave hospital.
- We will carefully and respectfully explain important sections contained on the Consent for Cremation form and provide clarification about anything that you might wish to discuss.
- There is no cost for this service.
- Parents and family members are invited to attend the service.
- After the service, your attendance and all whose ashes have been interred are recorded in a register maintained by Pastoral Care Services.



## Separate ashes

If you decide not to have the IOA service, you can collect separate ashes from KEMH. We can help you record your choice on the Consent for Cremation form.

Please note:

- Signed consent is required (please note that separate ashes are subject to confirmation from Perinatal Pathology).
- If collecting separate ashes from Pastoral Care Services, 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 Services.
- Please remember to bring your copy of the Consent for Cremation form and photo ID, such as your current driver's licence. Apart from the mother of the baby, ashes cannot be given to any person without the mother's signed permission authorising a proxy to collect ashes on her behalf.

## Contacting Pastoral Care Services

If you would like any further support, or if you have any questions or concerns, you can call us on (08) 6458 1726, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

## Grief support services

You may benefit from the services offered by external support agencies that are experienced in helping people deal with grief. The following services have been engaged by the WA Health Department to provide free, unbiased counselling, information and support for unplanned pregnancy, abortion care and contraception. We suggest them as a starting point:

- **Sexual Health Quarters (Perth)** <https://shq.org.au/> Phone: (08) 9227 6177
- **Desert Blue Connect (Geraldton)** <https://desertblueconnect.org.au/> Phone: (08) 9964 2742
- **Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre (Kalgoorlie)** <https://www.gwhcc.org.au/> Phone: (08) 9021 8266
- **South West Women's Health and Information Centre (Bunbury)** <https://swwhic.com.au/> Phone: (08) 9791 3350 or freecall 1800 672 350.

The following websites may also have helpful information to assist you:

- **Pregnancy, birth and baby** <https://www.pregnancybirthbaby.org.au/making-decisions-about-pregnancy>
- **HealthDirect** <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/abortion>
- **The Royal Women's Hospital** <https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-information/unplanned-pregnancy-information>

**A Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day Service is held each year in the King Edward Memorial Hospital Rose Garden. Please see the KEMH website for details.**

Compiled by Pastoral Care Services and the Day Surgery Unit

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.



## Women and Newborn Health Service

King Edward Memorial Hospital

📍 374 Bagot Road, Subiaco WA 6008

☎ (08) 6458 2222

✉ [kemhpastoralcare@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:kemhpastoralcare@health.wa.gov.au)

🌐 [kemh.health.wa.gov.au](http://kemh.health.wa.gov.au)

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

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