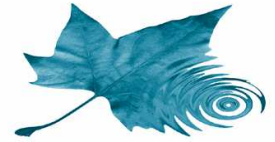


Palliative Care Council of South Australia Inc

Position Statement



Bereavement Support in South Australia

The Palliative Care Council of South Australia Inc holds that:

- feelings of loss and grief are a normal and natural reaction to the death of people
- community education and information about grief is needed so that people experiencing strong feelings of loss and other intense symptoms immediately following a bereavement understand this is a normal reaction which is likely to settle over time – all health services need to be resourced to provide this education and information
- palliative care services should be resourced to provide bereavement support to those South Australians in their care, in accord with the *Standards for Providing Quality Palliative Care for All Australians*¹
- bereavement support services and interventions indicated by the evidence should be available to those people with ‘complicated grief reactions’² who need them, regardless of their location, age, capacity to pay or the reason for their feelings of grief
- ongoing work is needed to understand the scale of the problem and identify ways to provide care and support people experiencing loss and grief.

as at 27 March 2007

¹ *Standards for Providing Quality Palliative Care for All Australians* – Palliative Care Australia, Canberra May 2005 – page 33

² *A systematic review of the literature on complicated grief* – Kristjanson et al, WA Centre for Cancer & Palliative Care, Edith Cowan University, Perth May 2006 – page 10