

Christopher Hall

Best Practice Bereavement Care in the Palliative Care Service

Providing bereavement support is an essential component of palliative care service delivery; however, there is currently little evidence-based guidance for health professionals and others who provide this support. While loss and grief are fundamental to human life, the course and consequences of bereavement will vary for each individual. How can palliative care services best meet the needs of this diverse population? What empirical evidence is available to support decision making regarding assessing risk for adverse bereavement-related outcomes and the provision of appropriate bereavement interventions? This workshop will explore important considerations when developing bereavement support programs for palliative care services and will examine a range of processes and protocols which can assist us in providing sound and effective bereavement support. The workshop will also explore a range of strategies from the point of intake to a palliative care service to well beyond the period of the patients death. The workshop will consider how our support can be targeted to those who would benefit most from specialist interventions through structured screening and assessment. The workshop will also consider how we can maximise the bereaved person's own resources and capacities that will enhance their resiliency in the wake of loss.



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For the past 20 years Christopher Hall has held the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement, a government funded specialist bereavement service, which is based in Melbourne, Victoria. He is a psychologist who has developed a specialisation in the field of grief and bereavement over the past 25 years. Chris has trained many health and education professionals in grief theory and interventions both in Australia and internationally. He has a strong interest in child and adolescent grief,

complex bereavement experiences and the organisational impact of grief and loss. In 1999 he was elected to the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement (IWG) and has served as Chair of the organisation. He is currently Secretary/Treasurer of the IWG. He is a Past President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, one of the oldest interdisciplinary organizations in the field of dying, death and bereavement with over 2,000 members. A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, Christopher is also an Honorary Fellow of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne. He serves as the Editor of the journal *Grief Matters: The Australian Journal of Grief and Bereavement* and Associate Editor of *Death Studies*. In 2010 Christopher was appointed to the Coronial Council of Victoria.