



Annual Report GriefLink Inc 2018-2019

GriefLink.org.au

I am delighted to be presenting tonight the first Annual Report of GriefLink Incorporated on behalf of the GriefLink Management Committee.

As you know, GriefLink is a web-based information resource for people who are bereaved and grieving, with links to relevant resources and supports.

GriefLink began as a joint project between the National Association for Loss and Grief (South Australia) Inc. and the Department of General Practice at the University of Adelaide in 1998 with funding from the then Department of Human Services for South Australia. The site was developed in consultation with bereaved persons and a wide variety of professionals and carers working in the field of loss and grief in South Australia, and was launched in November 1999.

It has been maintained and updated since then by a volunteer Management Committee, most of whom are still members of the committee today.

GriefLink has been able to obtain small community grants from time to time, some of which required auspicing from an incorporated organisation, but in 2017 – 2018 when it became apparent that this route was no longer available, and that considerable work was required to modernize and update the website, it was decided that GriefLink should become an incorporated body, enabling it to apply for grants in its own right.

Incorporation was completed on March 21st 2018, and I want to acknowledge here the support and advice that was given to the committee by Megan Hender throughout this process.

At the same time generous financial support was received from Graham James and Alfred James Funeral Homes to enable the committee to go ahead with a full rejuvenation of GriefLink, introducing a new look for the pages and with optimisation of the web site for mobile devices. The web development work was carried out by a team from James Anthony Consulting led by Zac Bailey and with Shaun Crouch as our web analyst.

The renewed web site was launched at AnglicareSA on February 20th by Mrs Lan Le. As a follow-up the committee was invited to a delightful afternoon tea at Government House, with a personal tour of the rooms by Mrs Le. We are very grateful to her for all her encouragement and support.

Since then there has been ongoing work to improve various aspects of the site. The downloadable GriefLink pamphlet was re-drafted, and design work on the new pamphlet was completed in SA Health, where translation into the ten most used languages was also carried out. These are also available for downloading from the Home page.

Incorporation enabled the committee to apply for a Suicide Prevention Community Grant for 2018-2019 administered by the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist to develop more suicide specific grief information, as part of the SA Health postvention strategy. Development of the new pages was guided by a GriefLink Suicide Prevention Reference Group, and project work was commenced by Mary Galouzis from Talk out Loud. Unfortunately Mary had to resign due to ill health and Katherine Hodgetts took over as Project Officer and saw the project through to when the pages went 'live' on July 1st 2019. We are very grateful to all those people who contributed to the project.

The GriefLink Management Committee submitted a further application for a Suicide Prevention Grant for 2019-2020 but was unsuccessful. However there is still work to be done to disseminate the new material and promote the more accessible GriefLink web site.

We are extremely grateful that we have received further funding for ongoing web maintenance from Graham James and Alfred James Funeral Homes for 2019-2020, and acknowledge Graham and Alfred James' contribution to support for grief and loss in South Australia.

The committee has for some time been concerned about the sustainability of GriefLink and its Management Committee, and has been aware of the need to recruit new (and hopefully younger) members. This need has been made even more acute by the resignation of Michael Bull from the committee tonight. Michael has been part of GriefLink since its inception and his breadth of experience, his wise council and clear thinking will be sorely missed. We wish him very well in this new phase of his retirement. We will look forward to welcoming new committee members as they emerge.

I think, as we look ahead, 2019 and 2020 will be a time of consolidation of all the work we have done in the last year. In finishing, I want to congratulate you all on an amazing effort to get GriefLink to where it is now, and I look forward to another productive and enjoyable year.

Mary Brooksbank

Chair, GriefLink Management Committee

GriefLink Management Committee 2017-2019

Dr Mary Brooksbank AM, MB BS, FRACS, FChPM

Honorary Fellow, University of Adelaide

Retired Director of Palliative Care, Royal Adelaide Hospital and Medical Director, Mary Potter

Hospice, Calvary North Adelaide Healthcare (1995-2009)

Retired Chair, Palliative Care SA (2010-2016)

(Committee Chair 2017 ongoing)

David Roach OAM, BA(Soc Wk), MSW

Retired Palliative Care social worker, with a particular focus on grief and bereavement.

Retired Lecturer, Social Work (Grief and Bereavement), Flinders University,

Founding member of GriefLink

(Committee Deputy Chair 2017 ongoing)

Michael Bull, BSW MSW

Retired Senior Lecturer, Flinders University (2015)

40 years experience in the field of grief and loss in the community and teaching in higher education.

Founding member of GriefLink

Dr Teresa Burgess, PhD

Postgraduate qualifications in Primary Health Care, Higher Education and Nursing Management.

Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Adelaide

Coordinator, research courses in the Master of Public Health, University of Adelaide.

Founding member of GriefLink

Committee Secretary 2017 ongoing

Dr Jaklin Elliott, PhD

Senior Lecturer and Post-Graduate Coordinator, School of Public Health, University of Adelaide

Program Coordinator (Research/1st year liaison), Graduate Program in Counselling and

Psychotherapy, University of Adelaide

Dr Gillian Laven, PhD, BHLthSc, Grad Cert (Higher Ed)

Retired, Adjunct Lecturer, Adelaide Health Simulation, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Adelaide

Founding member of GriefLink

Michael Traynor

Manager, Loss & Grief Services, AnglicareSA

GriefLink Suicide Prevention Reference Group 2018-2019

Prof Nicholas Procter	University of South Australia
Ms Jill Chapman	MOSH
Ms Alison Smith (replaced by Ms Anna Minges)	
	Adelaide PHN
Ms Kate Toon	AnglicareSA
Ms Chez Curnow	Country SA PHN
Dr Sheila Clark	GP
Dr Paula Dabovich	University of Adelaide
Ms Megs Lamb	Multicultural Council SA
Mr Ian James	OCP (represented by Ms Tanya Bates)
Mr Adam Clay	OCP

Project Officers

Ms Mary Galouzis (Sept – Dec 2018)
Dr Katherine Hodgetts (Jan – June 2019)

MOSH – Minimisation of Suicide Harm
PHN – Primary Health Network
OCP – Office of the Chief Psychiatrist