

GRIEF & LOSS PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER



From the desk

Welcome to our first Grief and Loss Newsletter, we trust you enjoy reading about all that has been happening across the Grief and Loss program.

It has been an amazing year to date with many across the state being supported and encouraged through our program, training events and the educational workshops we have presented.

As we continue to support others, I want to take a moment to thank the team of Barb, Jen and Holly who are the most dedicated people. They all have an amazing compassion, commitment and work tirelessly to make a difference to those we serve.

To all of you who also support us with your time, effort and energy, I want to thank you.

Enjoy our first newsletter!

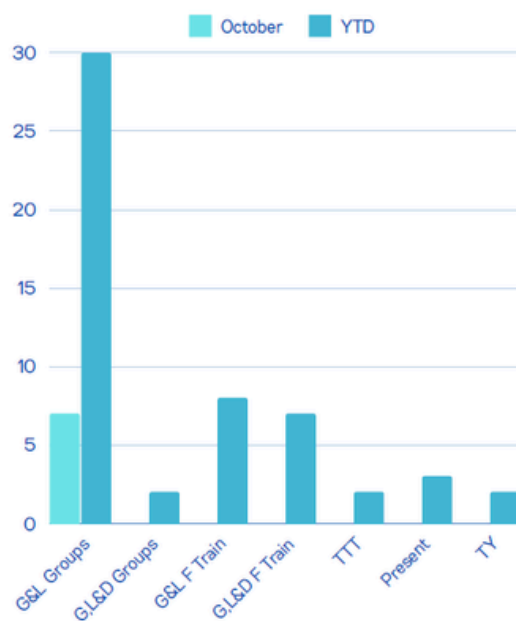
Jeff Howard
Manager of Mission & Pastoral Care

G&L Monthly Report – October

We would like to share the impact of the Grief & Loss program this year.

Below is Year-to-date data and over the page showing Participants year-to-date.

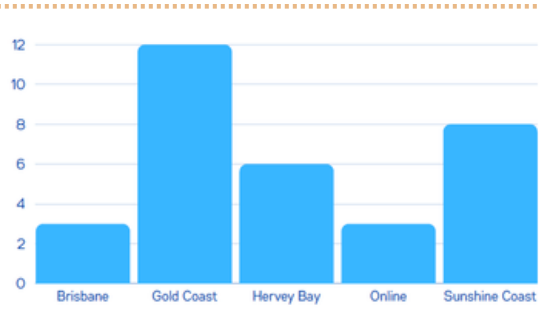
GRIEF & LOSS YEAR TO DATE REPORT



- 30 Grief and Loss Groups
- 2 Grief , Loss & Dementia Groups
- 8 Grief and Loss Facilitator Trainings
- 7 Grief, Loss & Dementia Facilitator Trainings
- 2 Train the Trainer
- 2 Grief and Loss Presentations
- 2 Volunteer Thank You Events

Participants engaged in October 2024

Brisbane	3
Gold Coast	12
Hervey Bay	6
Online	3
Sunshine Coast	8



This is an amazing achievement and look forward to watching it grow in 2025.

We will share with you, more of this data in future newsletters.

A Story by Rev Neil Storey

WOW! What an experience and I am excited to say that Noosa Coastal Congregation now has 7 (that's right 7) people trained in the BlueCare Grief and Loss, and Grief Loss and Dementia Programs.

Led by the facilitators Barbara and Jen from BlueCare they educated the group (which also included a BlueCare Chaplain) on what people go through when they experience the loss of a loved one.

Having armed the group with lots of information Barb and Jen tutored us as we presented the eight-week course to the rest of the group in just two days.

During these presentations the group experienced as facilitators what the participants would experience. I can tell you the experience was amazing to see the skills of those who were learning to present the course and to hear the stories that were shared.

Having completed the two days on Grief and Loss of a loved, the group reconvened two weeks later to explore what it means when a loved one is going through dementia and how those caring for the person experience grief and loss as part of that journey.

Noosa Coastal anticipates running both courses Grief and Loss of a Loved One and Grief Loss and Dementia in February 2025.



Noosa Coastal facilitator training sessions with Jen Nel and Barb Betts

Photos courtesy of Rev Neil Storey

Poets Corner

During a recent training session in Noosa, a Trainee Facilitator wrote a story in form of a poem. We are lucky enough to share this with you all.

*Our group was small in number but
very big in heart.*

*We wanted to help other groups.
But needed the skills to start.*

*As strangers we learned to trust
each other,
Became secure enough to share
Deeply held feelings of grief,
Loss and sometimes despair.*

*We shared in the safety of a room
Whose walls held memories of their own.
We paid attention silently, watchfully,
Ignoring traffic drone.*

*We were moved by the secrets spoken
From souls still very broken,
By their grief and loss over years,
Each trembling voice releasing
stifled tears.*

*Holding back from comforting, allowing
heartfelt stories to unfold.
We felt their sadness with empathy
For the loss that was being told .*

*In candle glow we passed the
tissues round,
And hoped that by sharing
In a haven of caring,
There would be comfort to be found.*

*At last we could hug as we were leaving,
Our hearts still raw
But our minds believing ,that grieving
Is the price we have to pay for loving.*

Pat Ellington

Thank you Pat, for sharing this beautiful story.
**If you would like to share your own, we
would love to hear from you!**

Programs in 2025



As we expand our programs statewide, your input is invaluable in ensuring we meet the needs of our communities effectively. To support the initiatives currently running to better plan our training and workshop schedule for 2025, we need your help!

If you are planning any programs for 2025, please take a moment to register them using the link below.

[Enter 2025 Programs here](#)

By doing so, you'll help us compile a comprehensive overview of all upcoming offerings, which will then be advertised statewide. This way, presbyteries and other referral sources will be aware of the opportunities available, making it easier for interested participants to connect with your programs.

Together we can ensure that our programs reach those who need them most and create a lasting impact in our communities. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and collaboration. We look forward to seeing programs pop up all over the state. This link will also be emailed to all facilitators. It will remain open all the time for you to add to.

If you need to make any changes to a program you previously registered, please email Grief and Loss Program GriefandLossProgram@bluecare.org.au

Important Requirements

As we continue our mission to expand our Grief and Loss programs statewide, we want to take a moment to emphasize the vital role you play in our success. Your dedication and passion are what drive our mission forward, and we are grateful for your commitment.

To build a solid foundation for our initiative, it is crucial that we ensure all facilitators are compliant with our current guidelines and requirements. Compliance not only strengthens our operations but also enhances our credibility and allows us to serve our community more effectively.

In the coming weeks, our admin staff, Holly and Lorraine, will be reaching out to each of you to provide support and guidance in ensuring that you have all the necessary documentation and are compliant with our standards. This outreach is designed to help you navigate any hurdles you may encounter, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

By building a current and accurate database of our facilitators, we can streamline our processes and better coordinate our efforts. This solid foundation will empower us to expand our program, reaching more individuals and communities across the state. Together, we can amplify our impact and ensure that our valuable services are accessible to everyone who needs them. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission. We are excited about the future and are grateful to have you on this journey with us.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Barb; we are happy to help wherever we can.

Jen Nel
Operations Manager, Care & Wellbeing Service and Grief & Loss

Your Key Contacts



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Barb Betts 0417 555 826

You can also email us at
griefandlossprogram@bluecare.org.au

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“May the peace that comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead”