

CHILDREN
AGED
14-17



LOSS OF A LOVED ONE
DURING A PANDEMIC



GRIEF DURING COVID-19

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The death of a loved one and the grief that follows can be hard topics to discuss with kids. We understand that as a parent or carer, you just want to be there for your kids, and know that they're expressing their grief in healthy ways.

This resource and our Grief Resource Hub are here to help you and your kids discuss grief and death in an age-appropriate way.

Please know that we are here to support you and your family – with Camps, resources like this one, and a community of people who understand what you're going through.

To get further support, please call us on 1300 602 465. Or click any of the "ENQUIRE NOW" buttons on our website to fill out a quick questionnaire, which we'll use to match you with the right programs and support.

NAVIGATING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE DURING A PANDEMIC

Losing a loved one is devastating enough as it is, however, mourning during a pandemic presents a new set of challenges. As a parent, this will be a particularly difficult time for you and your teen(s); however, there are ways to get through this time and you are not alone.

1. SAYING GOODBYE

It can be difficult for your teen to grapple with being unable to say goodbye to a loved one in person. Not being able to say goodbye in the way they would have liked may instill a sense that things are not resolved and can cause children to wonder about their loved one's last moments. It is important to acknowledge how painful this is for them and how unfair it must feel. Ensure they understand their loved one would have wanted to say goodbye on better terms and it was not their choice. Discuss with your teen other ways they could say goodbye, such as lighting a candle, saying a prayer or poem, writing a letter, or visiting a special place.

2. MAKE THE MOST OF VIRTUAL SUPPORT

Grieving without normal daily routines and face-to-face support networks can be really difficult for your teen. It is important to remind them that family and friends are still there, and they can still connect to others virtually through FaceTime or Zoom.



3. FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS

Explain to your teen that lockdown restrictions mean that funerals are not happening as they normally would. Funerals and memorials may include only immediate family or friends. The loss of rituals surrounding death and the inability to engage in traditions that support the grieving process can make it much more difficult to cope. Ideas for a placeholder ritual may include; holding a vigil in the house or backyard or creating a collage, memory box, or altar together.

4. CREATE A SENSE OF NORMALCY

Think with your teen about the activities that help them cope with difficult situations in normal life and which of these they can still do during lockdown. These could be drawing, running, listening to music, talking to friends, watching a favourite movie, cooking/baking, or reading a book. Encourage them to keep doing these activities if they want to. Reassure them that it's okay to have a good time and enjoy something – and this does not take away from how much they care about their loved one.

5. ADDRESS FEELINGS OF ISOLATION

One of the greatest challenges of grieving in the age of COVID-19 is the isolation that the disease creates. Grief can be an isolating experience under normal circumstances, but social distancing and quarantine have made the process lonelier. As a parent, it is crucial that you provide comfort to your teen by highlighting that they will continue to be cared for and loved no matter what. It is important to offer opportunities for them to talk to you about how they are feeling, while also giving them space to grieve.

If you'd like to learn more about Feel the Magic or register your interest for one of our Camps, please don't hesitate to contact us. Just click any of the **"ENQUIRE NOW"** buttons on our website or give us a call on **1300 602 465**.

We have a range of Camps across Australia, both virtual and face-to-face. To find out more about our Camps, click [HERE](#).



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