

Institute for Social Science Research - PhD Student Project

ISSR Impact Area: Health

Title: *Bereavement pathways following the death of a baby: A 30 year follow up of parent outcomes*

Supervisor/s: [Associate Professor Fran Boyle](#)

Funding:

Student Scholarship required, top-up funding may be available to suitable candidate

Project description:

The death of a baby around the time of birth or soon after is a devastating outcome of pregnancy that is experienced by more than 3,000 families in Australia each year. The psychosocial consequences may be profound and research shows that the impacts may be felt for many years. Little is known about the very long-term consequences of perinatal death.

This PhD project offers a rare opportunity to follow-up a cohort of families who joined a longitudinal study following the death of a baby 30 years ago. The study will trace the original study participants to investigate their experiences and outcomes following stillbirth, newborn death or sudden infant death. The study will involve collecting data from these families through interviews or other survey techniques and analysing existing data that was collected from families in earlier study phases. Combining these data sources will enable exploration of pathways to resilient or adverse psychosocial outcomes.

The project will contribute to the design of evidence-based interventions for parent-centred approaches to care following pregnancy loss. Through this project the PhD student will gain experience in mixed methods and longitudinal research and detailed knowledge and understanding of research, policy and practice in perinatal bereavement care.

The candidate:

We are seeking a candidate who has an excellent academic record and a particular interest in the topic. Experience in at least one of the following areas is essential: longitudinal research; perinatal mental health; bereavement care; mixed methods research.

Achievable Outcomes:

- A PhD from the UQ in relevant area
- Multiple scientific papers in high impact research journals
- Experience with oral/written presentations at national/international conferences
- Interaction with an interdisciplinary network of researchers who are national and international leaders in perinatal bereavement care.