

# **/ National Principles**

## to support families following an industrial death

**Tragically, on average, over 180 workers are killed each year at work in Australia. As the national policy body for Work, Health and Safety (WHS) and Workers' Compensation, Safe Work Australia is committed to driving policy that reduces the number of work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses.**

In 2018, the Australian Senate conducted an [inquiry into the prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#), which highlighted the devastating personal, social and economic impacts on bereaved families. In response, Safe Work Australia Members made a commitment to work collaboratively to improve support for these families.

In 2020, Safe Work Australia conducted in-depth consultations and research with bereaved families and other key stakeholders to establish a best practice model of support. The following national principles are informed by the resulting scoping study and comparative analysis report and have been endorsed by all jurisdictions. They provide a high-level framework to guide WHS authorities, and other relevant agencies within jurisdictions, to implement family-centred policies and practices at the operational level to support bereaved families impacted by an industrial death.

State and territory governments ultimately have the role of providing advice, education, compliance and enforcement of WHS and will need to consider their own tailored approaches in response to the principles, based on local needs. Differences between jurisdictions in geography, workforce, division of responsibilities between government agencies, and legislation will necessitate different and scalable solutions.

# **/ National Principles** to support families following an industrial death

- 1 /** Families receive a timely, supported, in-person notification of their loved one's death.
- 2 /** Families are provided with initial important and relevant information in a timely and accessible manner.
- 3 /** Families receive and have access to clear information in a variety of forms, which enables them to exercise their preferences.
- 4 /** Wherever possible, families are supported by a single point of contact to navigate government systems and access the supports they need.
- 5 /** Agencies establish clear guiding principles that inform how they engage with bereaved families.
- 6 /** Families are referred to, and assisted to connect with, available support services.
- 7 /** Strong inter-agency relationships support a coordinated approach to supporting bereaved families.
- 8 /** Families are provided with opportunities to share their experiences and memorialise their loved ones.
- 9 /** Bereaved families and seriously injured workers and their families have the opportunity to give feedback to government, and advocate for change or reform to meet the needs of those significantly impacted by industrial death or serious injury.