

Services for vulnerable people



Brendan's dad died two years ago, and he came on a Star Bear camp last year.

At the funeral, someone had told him he was now "the man of the house and would have to look after his younger brother."

His mum was worried about how he was coping. He had taken the advice literally, even moving into his brother's room. Brendan was missing his friends, and his younger brother was becoming very dependent on him.

At a Star Bear camp, we made sure each boy had their own mentor, and that they mixed with other children their age. Brendan was assured that he did not have to assume the role of his dad — and he seemed relieved to have this enormous burden lifted from him.

Brendan's mum is delighted that the camp has made both boys more independent.

And Brendan himself has joined a soccer team and is enjoying being a kid again.

Loss & Grief services

The Star Bear program for bereaved kids is part of Anglicare's **Loss and Grief services**.

Grief can be caused by all kinds of loss — loss of a job, loss of a partner, family breakdown, financial loss, adoption or other childhood trauma.

Anglicare's services include

- individual or family counselling
- information and referrals
- support groups.

The service offers a range of different supports to help people cope with the many responses to grief.

We serve around 80 individuals and families per month.

Star Bear and Star Bound programs cater for children and teenagers, 5–17, include weekend camps conducted by trained mentors and carers. The camps increase children's understanding of death and the grieving process, appropriate to their age, and give them an opportunity to share their experiences with other children.

The Loss and Grief service is a program of Anglicare SA in partnership with the school of Social Work at Flinders University.

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