

30/03/05 child bereavement / 2 sots

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Families who have lost a child can now find support in their time of grief.

A new charity is being launched today (**8pm**) by a group of bereaved parents in Singapore to help them.

The "Child Bereavement Support Singapore" will extend support to bereaved parents who've lost a child whether through miscarriage, still birth, infancy or later in their life.

The group's president, Sonya Szpojnarowicz (**prono: shpoy-na-ro-witch**), says such support has previously not been available in Singapore and is important.

sot

30/03 sonya - support

In: The value of parent...

Out: ...parents might need.

Dur: 34"

the value of parent to parent support is absolutely enormous and i think you can only really appreciate how enormous it is if you are a bereaved parent. It's the knowledge that somebody else has been in the same boat you're in. That you're not alone. That someone else knows a little bit about how you feel makes such an enormous difference. We're not professional counsellors, but what we are doing is compiling our own recommendations, advice, resources so that between us we have personal recommendations of counsellors in Singapore or other resources that bereaved parents might need.

Child Bereavement Support Singapore is tying up with other organisations to provide smoother channels of professional help.

Dr Gerard Chuah of the NKF's Children's Medical Fund says it will offer scholarships to those in the healthcare sector.

sot

30/03 sonya - support

In: There isn't really ...

Out: ...period of bereavement.

Dur: 41''

There isn't really such paramedical staff to help parents where they've lost a child. we are working with the KK hospital. we're gonna give two scholarships. We're will actually help them find attachments in the UK and the USA. To learn about child bereavement, how we can offer grieving parents support and also how to create a system that can create this kind of support. Because this is something very new. And we hope that by giving these two scholarships, the para medical staff when they return, they can train healthcare professionals to provide such an infrastructure where these parents can receive holistic support and get over this period of bereavement.

The support group will be launched this evening at the National Kidney Centre.

Details on it can be found at the website www.childbereavementsupport.org.sg