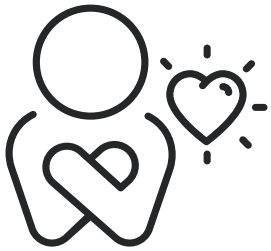
Drug-Related Bereavement

Staff Support

1

Staff who have experienced a drug-related death of a client report profound sadness and complicated grief outcomes. Even though they are experts in their field, staff reactions to client deaths are human responses to loss which involve a blend of emotional and professional reactions. There is a need for more refined strategies that provide spaces to address complicated grief while also allowing staff to engage in their work in a measured manner.

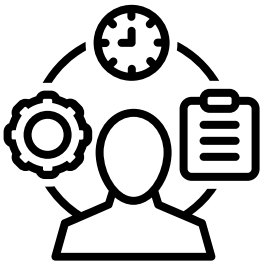
2



Bereavement Support

Integration of DRD bereavement supports in organisational support structures that recognise the personal impact of client deaths and the complex nature of drug-related bereavement.

3



Proactive Response

Proactive responses from management that recognise the connections between staff and their clients, providing staff with the supports and space required.

4

Dedicated Peer Support

Peer support programmes that reduce self-stigma and encourage open disclosure among staff within an organisation.

Relevant Research

5

O'Callaghan, D., & Lambert, S. (2023). The experience of drug-related client loss for healthcare professionals who support people in addiction. Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment, 158, 209236.

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