



**Miners' Promise**  
your family our family

# The Promise

Issue: September 2016

[www.minerspromise.org.au](http://www.minerspromise.org.au)

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## Standing Together September Event wrap-up



**Friday 9 September marked the second Standing Together lunch event, which was held at the Canning River Eco Education Centre in Wilson. The event attracted ten attendees – half of whom were attending for the first time.**

Running from 9.00am to 1.00pm, it followed an informal structure of

discussion topics and break away walks around the river, led by Miners' Promise Family Support Advisor, Helen Fitzroy.

"The idea was to extend the event to give attendees more time to connect and share experiences," said Helen.

"Discussions covered topics such as the individual's 'invisible losses' experienced, along with the plethora

of bureaucratic processes and procedures that inevitably form part of difficulties when dealing with the death of a loved one.

"Given that participants presented with varying experiences in terms of time since their loss, there was some invaluable sharing of processes, problems and suggested solutions, prior to the conclusion of the forum.

"Initial feedback from the attendees was also that everyone left with new support contacts and an appreciation that they are not alone – that others walk this journey with them," she added.

The next Standing Together forum is scheduled for March 2017. Look out for more information on our website or contact us directly if you or someone you know would like to attend.



# Please share our new Miners' Promise Video!

We've uploaded our new video to our YouTube channel and added a link to our website homepage, which can be found at [www.minerspromise.org.au](http://www.minerspromise.org.au)

Members have also received a commemorative USB stick with a full copy of the Video with this quarterly newsletter to view and share.

So please do take a moment to plug it into your laptop or computer and have a quick look to refresh yourselves on the services we offer and why we are here. Or view it via the website!

The video gives a brief overview about Miners' Promise, highlighting the benefits of membership captured in about 6 minutes. We intend to use the video to let more people know who we are as part of a new membership drive.



One of the best ways to reach the large number of people spread across our vast regional resources sector is via video.

So we encourage everyone to watch it and share it with anyone you think might like to know about us to encourage more people and organisations within the resources sector to become members of Miners' Promise.

We'd love to hear what you think about the video or anything else about Miners' Promise. You can email us with your comments and suggestions or leave a comment on Facebook.

[info@minerspromise.org.au](mailto:info@minerspromise.org.au)



Please share our video with as many people as possible!

## Facebook Discussion Group launches



### The Standing Together Online Support Group has also launched!

Created as a closed facebook group, the forum provides a moderated online platform aimed at helping empower resource worker families affected by the loss of a loved one.

The group is strictly for individuals who have lost a loved one. It is also

“closed” to protect members and provide a safe online platform for them to develop supportive relationships with others within the group who may share similar experiences.

The hope is that this will help broaden group members' social networks and reduce the risk of isolation for those individuals who have experienced loss, and who may benefit from talking to others facing similar challenges.

So if you, or someone you know may benefit from this group, this is how to join.

Go to the facebook page and lookup, **'Miners Promise – Standing Together'**. Read the guidelines for becoming a member and then send a personal message to the Administrator. You will need to confirm the following:

- your connection to the resources sector;
- how you have been affected by loss; and
- who, if anybody, recommended this group to you.

If you are having any difficulty accessing this group then contact us directly on [info@minerspromise.org.au](mailto:info@minerspromise.org.au).

# The Johnson Family



**Matt Johnson was a 31 year old Machine Operator for BGC Contracting in Koolyanobbing. He'd been working for the company for three years, the last two years on a two week on, one week off roster, and regularly drove to work in the Wheatbelt from the South West home he shared with his wife Kelly, and two young children - six year old Mason, and Emmy, who is four.**

On June 18, 2016, the family's life was to change irrevocably when Matt was involved in a fatal car accident on the way to begin his two week shift. The Police came to the house to break the tragic news, and shortly afterwards, Kelly informed Matt's work.

A short while after the accident, Kelly received a call from BGC to let her know about the assistance Miners' Promise could offer.

Kelly had never heard of Miners' Promise before and investigated immediately.

"When I looked at the website and realised what Miners' Promise was all

about, I knew this was exactly the type of support I needed," said Kelly.

"I was in a daze. You just don't have any idea before something like this happens to you just how complicated things are when someone dies.

"Matt didn't have a Will for one thing. How many 31 year olds do? They're invincible right? But that meant I wasn't his automatic benefactor, which I didn't realize. We didn't have any income protection or life insurance either, and the house we live in is a rental. Death certificates can take a really long time to be issued and everyone wants proof before they can do anything. It wasn't long before this had all started to become overwhelming. So I jumped at the chance of some support to help me through," she said.

Kelly rang BGC back and they called Miners' Promise for her. A family support advisor (FSA) went out to visit her within a day or two to meet with Kelly in her home and to work out a plan of action.

"The FSA had a big list of exactly who to contact and what needed doing. This included help with bills and

finance to keep us on track whilst all the paperwork was sorted out. But the most valuable aspect of the service was the emotional support.

"Miners' Promise know all the processes and procedures and beaurocracy that follow someone's death. They know everything that needs to be done, who to contact regarding probate, the public trustees etc and, in what order and when.

"Not only that, our FSA took care of it all. I didn't have to make any of those calls, which left me free to begin coping with my own grief and to look after my two confused and devastated children," said Kelly.

Three months on Kelly is still only beginning to come to terms with the loss of her husband Matt. However, she is full of nothing but praise for the service Miners' Promise offers to member's families following a tragedy.

"Everyone should know about Miners' Promise and everyone associated with our industry should be a member. One day when I am ready, I hope to be able to help get that message out to even more people so something good can come out of this all."

"The help I received from Miners' Promise has enabled me to stay on track financially. But more importantly, the experience of working with the FSA has helped empower me to go on and find some purpose and hope for the future," said Kelly.



# Thank you to our members



Thank you

Since the inception of **Miners' Promise in 2010, as custodians of your membership fees, we have been able to effectively assist numerous families**

**in WA and beyond, who have experienced either a crisis or fatality. Without your regular contribution, this support would be impossible.**

We know we have made a significant difference in the lives of those we have assisted – albeit just a small part of their continuing journey – and we wish to acknowledge your support in enabling us to achieve this.

We understand also, that many within the sector are still unaware of the extent of our service provision and therefore face many of the inevitable challenges that come with any crisis, alone.

It is our goal to change this scenario, by increasing awareness of our organisation, so that all members and their families have an effective on-going support base, in times of need.

We're relieved that the majority of you have not been placed in a position of crisis, as some of your colleagues have, but more importantly, this is an acknowledgment that your small sacrifice has very much contributed to and continues to ease the burden on those less fortunate and for that, we are very appreciative.

## Have you moved?

It is important for us to have your current contact information, especially if you or your family ever needs our assistance.

We also want to ensure you don't miss out on the potential to win some of the great prizes and gifts on offer in our frequent competitions and giveaways.

So if your contact information has recently changed, make sure you update your details with us as soon as possible.

You can use our **Member's Only Login** area on the website to update your details.

This feature enables you to set up your own online account that can be accessed at any time to update your contact information, or view contributions made to date.

If you haven't already set up your account, or have forgotten your login details e-mail us at [info@minerspromise.org.au](mailto:info@minerspromise.org.au) or call **1300 124 014** and we will gladly assist you.

Prefer not to register for an online account? Just call us and we will update your contact information over the phone.



### Our Contact Details

**Postal Address:** PO Box 7165,  
Cloisters Square WA 6850

**By phone:** 1300 124 014

**By email:** [info@minerspromise.org.au](mailto:info@minerspromise.org.au)

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