



**Miners' Promise**  
your family our family

# The Promise

Issue: December 2016

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

## Miners' Promise Wrap-Up for 2016

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*From left to right: Andrew Kennedy, Sue Harfield, Liz Vuletich, Deane Criddle, Franko Roberts, Richard Kern, Evan Kolbe, Kristy Porter. Absent: Brad Brierley.*

### Meeting for the final time in 2016, our Board of Directors reflected on a year that has seen continued readjustments within the Resources Sector, with many families finding themselves in significantly changed circumstances.

However, while acknowledging the current challenges, our Board's thoughts remained with the families, friends and workmates of the 31 mining, oil & gas, and construction workers, who lost their lives in 2016 in Australian work places. This is a sobering reminder of the hazards that still face our workers today, despite the continuing advances in technology and attitudes towards safety in the workplace.

It has been our privilege to have provided a range of support to 25 families during 2016.

We sincerely hope through our intervention we have helped support and empower them in their recovery, while at the same time respecting their dignity and privacy through times of acute stress and uncertainty.

So, to all the families we have been able to assist through Miners' Promise, our thoughts are with you as we all approach the festive season.

For Miners' Promise, there were a number of changes during 2016. We established our bi-annual 'Standing Together' Support Group – which provides an opportunity for resource families who have lost a loved one to connect, support, share and learn from one another's experiences.

We welcomed three new Board Directors to Miners' Promise: Deane Criddle; Kristy Porter and Elizabeth Vuletich.

Deane currently holds a leading position within KJV Gorgon's

Accounting and Finance team, and his financial expertise will be a great asset to us in continuing to strengthen our strategic direction.

Kristy has a diverse professional background and was a WA Finalist in the 2007 Telstra Business Women's Awards. She is currently a pursuit leader for PwC Australia, and her partner is a FIFO worker in the resources industry.

Elizabeth Vuletich is a clinical neuropsychologist and director at Mindlink Psychology. She joins Miners' Promise with an extensive insight into the psychological impacts of crisis events, further expanding the Board's appreciation and skill-set in the area.

Additionally, we welcomed our new Membership Coordinator, Helen Antonas. Helen has worked within the resources sector for more than 10 years and is highly familiar with the FIFO lifestyle. She was also

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## Miners' Promise Wrap-Up for 2016 continued

Executive Assistant to our inaugural Chairperson, Ian Fletcher in the early years of Miners' Promise. As a result, Helen brings a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the objectives and purpose of Miners' Promise, as well as a wealth of industry knowledge.

So as another year comes to an end, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all our members and their families, to our service providers, participating employers, supporters and donors. Without your continued efforts it would not be possible to

provide the level of ongoing support to our members and their immediate families when they need it the most.

Finally, on behalf of the Miners' Promise Board of Directors and Staff, we wish you all health and happiness as we enter into a new year.

# Miners' Promise attends annual St Barbara's Day commemorations (1- 4 December 2016)

**If you live in the Goldfields region you may have spotted the familiar Miners' Promise logo about town, as Kalgoorlie celebrated the annual St Barbara's Day Festival for 2016.**

On Thursday night we remembered the miners who lost their lives in workplace accidents, through the lighting of the miners flame next to the St Barbara's Day statue in the town's centre. We also took part in the ceremonial laying of wreaths to commemorate those who have fallen.

The following two days we set up camp. You may have spotted us outside Woolworths on Saturday morning and then at the St Barbara's Float Parade on Sunday along Hannan Street, where we were swamped with interest about who we are and what we do for our members and their families.

During our visit we caught up with many people familiar with our organisation, including representatives from the Department of Mines and Petroleum, other key industry representatives and Miners' Promise members and families. We even managed to pique the interest of a local kangaroo (see photo – right).

Some people we spoke with were not so familiar with Miners' Promise. They



shared their own personal stories, many of which involved tragedy and loss. They praised the existence of Miners' Promise – wishing it had been around for them in their time of need.

The rich experience of talking to so many people on this visit only further cemented our resolve to ensure every resource sector worker is provided with the opportunity to become a part of the Miners' Promise family.

In all, the visit was declared a resounding success in terms of raising awareness about Miners' Promise, and has paved the way for more! So look out for us on the road in 2017!



## Member Story

# The Hall Family

**Kylie and Peter Hall's story is one of both tragedy as well as joy. On Sunday August 30th, 2015, at almost 34 weeks pregnant, Kylie suffered a placental abruption at home. By the time she reached the hospital just 45 minutes later, baby Lexi had lost her fight for life. Lexi was laid to rest the following Friday and Kylie and Peter began to face their devastating loss.**

Peter works for Norton Gold Fields in Kalgoorlie. The company, whose employees are all Miners' Promise members, first heard about the tragedy the following day, when Peter was unable to return to work. Norton contacted Miners' Promise almost immediately to see if they could help in any way.

"A family support advisor (FSA) from Miners' Promise called us that first week following Lexi's death to see how they could help," said Kylie.

"Lexi was my first baby. The nursery was all set up and ready for her, and we'd been so excited and eager to have her home. Pete had also taken a month off so we could all spend time together. Being at home was just so hard at that point, and the thing we really needed was to get away.

"Miners' Promise helped us in those initial stages by sending us away for a break, which helped so much. We were also able to talk to our FSA by phone as much as we needed, sometimes together and sometimes separately, as we both worked through our grief at our own pace.

"Just knowing we had this service was amazing. Often over those early weeks we'd turn our phones off every

now and then, because we couldn't talk to anyone. But when the phones went back on, there'd be a message from Miners' Promise making sure we were OK.

"The support didn't even stop then. It's been on going," added Kylie.

About 5 months after they lost Lexi, Miners' Promise had contacted Kyle and Peter on a regular touch base call to see how they were. They were greeted with some very joyful news. Kylie was expecting another baby!

However, as with all parents who have lost a baby, there was a certain amount of trepidation and anxiety that accompanied Kylie's second pregnancy.

During this pregnancy the doctors had Kylie relocate to Perth for a period of 6 weeks for monitoring by specialists, to ensure both her's and the baby's well-being.

"Miners' Promise were amazing again," said Kylie.

"They visited me whilst I was in Perth and supported me though that time, which was really hard because Peter had to stay in Kalgoorlie and work. They also helped out with the accommodation costs in conjunction with PATS (Patient Assisted Travel Scheme), which took a huge financial burden off us.



*Peter and Kylie with baby Cody.*

**"It was such a hard time with the worry always in the back of my mind about what had happened before. Having Miners' Promise there to help me through was incredible. Just having them to talk to throughout this whole experience has made the world of difference. They have become like family to us," she added.**

Cody was born On October 7, 2016. A little under-weight, but now a healthy happy 8lb, 2 month old. The family is looking forward to their first Christmas with Cody, and little Lexi will never be far from their thoughts.

**With thanks from  
the Hall Family**

# Building new connections at the WISMAS sundowner

**Miners' Promise were at the Women in Safety, Western Australia (WISWA) "WISMAS Sundowner" held on 30 November in Perth.**

The event, attended by more than 30 professional women from across industries including the resources sector, was a great opportunity to raise awareness of Miners' Promise and make some new connections to increase our network of support.

Guest speaker, Josephine Hart gave an inspiring and often humorous talk on the concept of "work/life blend" for women in professional roles, and how she manages that blend as the mum of a toddler.

Miners' Promise looks forward to attending the organisation's next event which will be a high tea to coincide with International Women's Day in March 2017.

WISWA provides networking opportunities and an innovative mentoring program to women working in the mining and resources sector in Western Australia. It's free to join so if you are interested you can find out more at [www.ifap.asn.au/IFAP/Membership/WISWA.aspx](http://www.ifap.asn.au/IFAP/Membership/WISWA.aspx).

## Inviting your participation in a FIFO study

Miners' Promise has teamed up with Central Queensland University's Motivation of Health Behaviours Lab to promote their study on FIFO health and well-being.

The study is aimed at FIFO workers and FIFO partners and what daily activities get you through a day in the life of FIFO.

If you're interested in participating in this exciting study, please head to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CquFIFO](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CquFIFO) for more information and click the link to the survey.  
*HREC Approval # H16/09-269*

## 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.

### 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)

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.



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