



Sands National Conference 2019 – Call for Abstracts

Kia ora koutou. The organising committee of the Sands National Conference 2019 invites all prospective presenters to submit abstracts of up to 250 words for the forthcoming conference in Christchurch, New Zealand on 20th – 22nd September, 2019.

Key Information

- Abstract submission deadline: **30th April 2019**
- Email abstracts to sands.canterbury@xtra.co.nz
- Notification of acceptance of abstracts by: 15th May 2019

Abstract Topics

We invite you to submit an abstract on any aspect of pregnancy, baby and infant loss, grief and bereavement. Possible topics include miscarriage, supporting fathers, twin loss, loss with IVF, fertility aspects of loss/conception, subsequent pregnancy, parenting after loss, working with Māori and Pasifika families, stillbirth, making decisions following an unexpected diagnosis, cultural diversity and baby loss, religion and loss/death, neonatal death, sudden unexplained infant death, grandparent support, older losses, shock and trauma, supporting children/siblings, funerals and saying goodbye, art/craft therapy, recovering from loss, resilience in loss, peer support and support programs for clinicians, post traumatic growth, and perinatal mental health.

This list is an example of possible topics, please feel free to include other topics under pregnancy, baby and infant loss not mentioned here.

We also invite you to consider our theme of ‘Rebuilding your Life’ when you submit your abstract. Please see our website for a detailed explanation of the topic (www.sandsconference.co.nz). Christchurch, a city devastated by an earthquake still rebuilding and redefining itself leads to our conference theme. The loss of a child is very much like an earthquake, the initial shock and devastation, the aftershocks in varying intensity diminishing overtime but always unpredictable and always there. As the city rebuilds so do we, the scars still visible but there is beauty in what is rebuilt.

All conference sessions are open to professionals, parents, families, or anyone working in the area of pregnancy, baby and infant loss.

Abstracts may be academically focused, research oriented, practice based, or from personal experience.

Types of Presentations

Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent sessions are small group presentations providing an opportunity for conference participants to hear information on a topic or learn a skill from individual presenters in a more intimate setting. Ideal for small, interactive seminars that address practical topics for health and caring professionals, and/or bereaved parents, families and whanau. These presentations can be oral or interactive.

- Concurrent sessions will be fifty minutes long (please allow time for questions etc within this time period). Additional details about the presentations will be provided at the time of abstract acceptance.
- Attendance may be limited in size to encourage highly interactive sessions.
- Major criteria used for selection will include learning objectives that are clear and appropriate, a format that maximises audience participation and/or learning outcome.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions are whole conference presentations providing an opportunity for all conference participants to hear information on a topic or learn a skill from individual presenters. These presentations can be oral or interactive but must include all conference attendees.

- Total length of session is one hour.
- If tools (such as art supplies) are used this must be available for all.
- Prefer topics directly relating to the conference theme.

Guidelines for Submission

The submission of an abstract implies your consent to have it published in the conference booklet. All presenting authors of accepted abstracts are expected to attend the conference and register no later than 30 June 2019. A registration discount will be offered to conference presenters.

- Abstracts should be submitted by email to sands.canterbury@xtra.co.nz
- Abstracts should be submitted in English.
- The maximum number of words is 300 (an abstract of 250 words and a brief bio of 50 words).
- Please clarify whether you would prefer your abstract be considered for a concurrent session or plenary session. Sands Conference 2019 may request your choice be changed from what was requested if we feel it is better suited elsewhere.

Please email us on sands.canterbury@xtra.co.nz if you have any queries.