



# LATEST RESEARCH

IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN

# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // KEY STUDY

Risk advisers often speak about the need for financial protection using 'what if' scenarios to get their clients thinking about their family's future.

In 2015, ANZ Wealth partnered with Ipsos research to conduct a key study into the impact the death of a parent has on the family. This research has many powerful insights to assist advisers in their conversations with clients.

The research provides real insights into what actually happens and the impact it has – making it a clear and powerful way to demonstrate the benefits of life insurance. The financial and emotional impacts are wide ranging, however families with life insurance in place to support them had a more stable lifestyle – fewer moved house due to financial pressure and fewer parents reported an impact on their children's emotional wellbeing, on education and home life.

**Let's look at what this research shows us.**



# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // SUMMARY

In 2013, around 18,000 deaths were registered amongst Australians aged 20-60 years\*

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Over 40% of families had no warning at all prior to the death

64% of families had less than a week's notice of their spouse or parent dying

(including no warning at all)

"Losing their mother and caregiver at a young age had a devastating emotional effect upon the children and put an enormous workload upon me for many years"

Anonymous, no insurance cover

"Diagnosed with depression, as well as many psychological impacts that have caused issues throughout my adult life."

Anonymous, no insurance cover

## About the research

The research was conducted by Ipsos on behalf of ANZ Global Wealth, and is a follow up to 2010's investigation into the impact of death on the family by Ipsos called 'Picking Up The Pieces'. The interviews were carried out amongst Australians aged 18+ who have either lost a parent while they were under 18 or in full-time study, or lost a partner while they still have at least one child under 18 or in full-time study. Fieldwork took place between 24th April – 12th May 2015. This study was conducted online amongst members of an opt-in research panel.

## Disclaimer

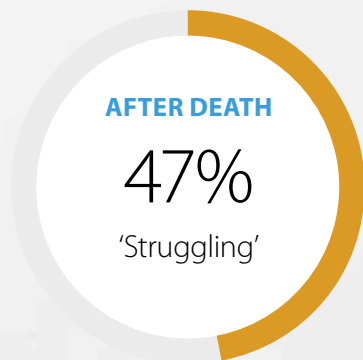
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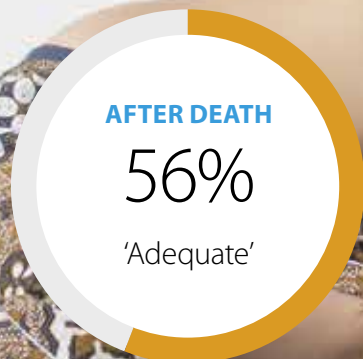
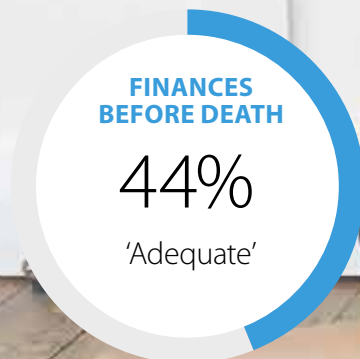
# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // FINANCES

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

Before death, 14% of parents without insurance rated finance as 'struggling'. After death this jumped to 47%



For those with insurance, before death 44% rated their finances as 'Adequate'. After death, this jumped to 56%

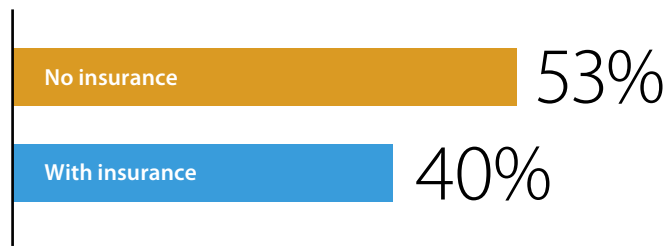


75% of those without insurance agree that in hindsight a policy covering death would have helped

# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // FINANCES

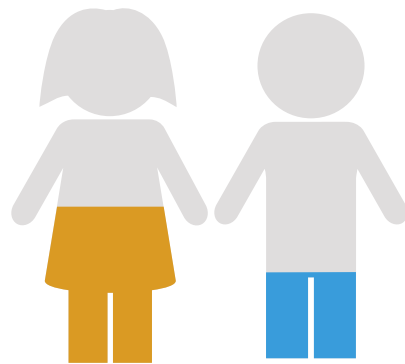
## REDUCTION IN OUTINGS

53% of children whose parents had no insurance, noticed a decrease in family outings, compared with 40% of children covered by insurance



## DECREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILD

50% of children whose parents had no insurance, agreed with "My family was unable to support me as much financially as they could have if my parent had not passed away" compared with 36% of children covered by insurance



No insurance

With insurance

"My mother had to have boarders to help make ends meet"

Anonymous, no insurance cover

1 in 10 parents had to take a second job



1 in 3 children over 14 in families took on a job due to financial pressure within 2 years



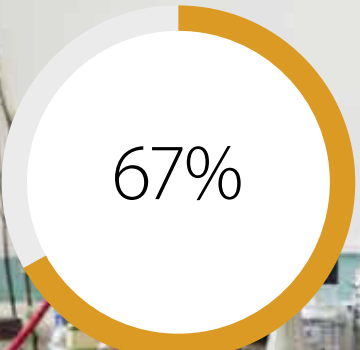
"Stabilising the family was difficult due to reduction in finances coming in"

Anonymous, no insurance cover

# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // HOME LIFE

## CHILDREN TAKE ON MORE CHORES

An average of 67% of children took on more household tasks & chores



67%

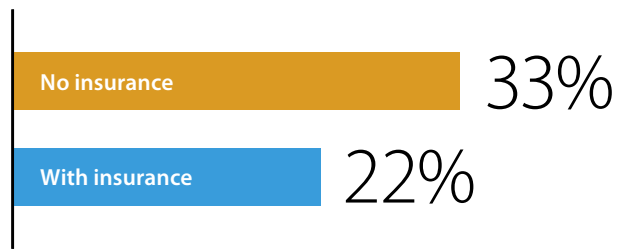
## LITTLE TO NO WARNING

A total of 64% of respondents had less than a week's notice of their spouse or parent dying

# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // HOME LIFE

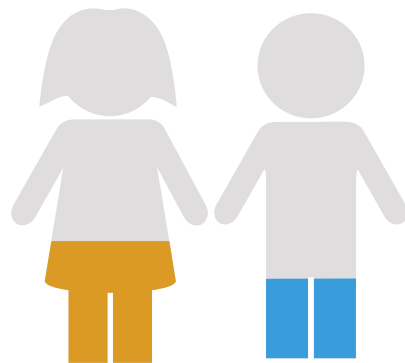
## MOVED HOUSE

33% of parents without insurance moved due to financial pressure, compared with 22% of parents covered by insurance



## DECREASE IN TIME SPENT TOGETHER

33% of families that had no insurance reported a decrease in time spent together. Only 24% of those with insurance experienced this.



No insurance With insurance

“Losing my mother made me more responsible for taking care of the home and family. I lost almost all contact with my friends, had no social life as also was studying and that made me the second priority to all the other needs of the family.”

Anonymous, child at time of death

49% of children took on more responsibilities caring for siblings



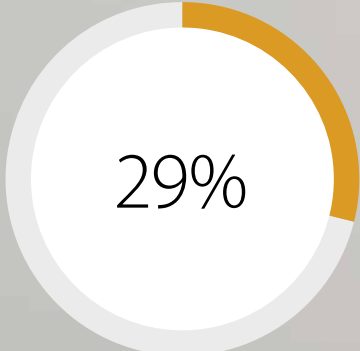
Over 40% of families had no warning at all prior to the death

# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // HEALTH, SOCIAL & WELLBEING

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Children going through adolescence, upon the death of a parent, became more susceptible to experiencing a mental health or drug/alcohol issue

Sadly, 29% of children reported having these issues after the death of their parent



29%



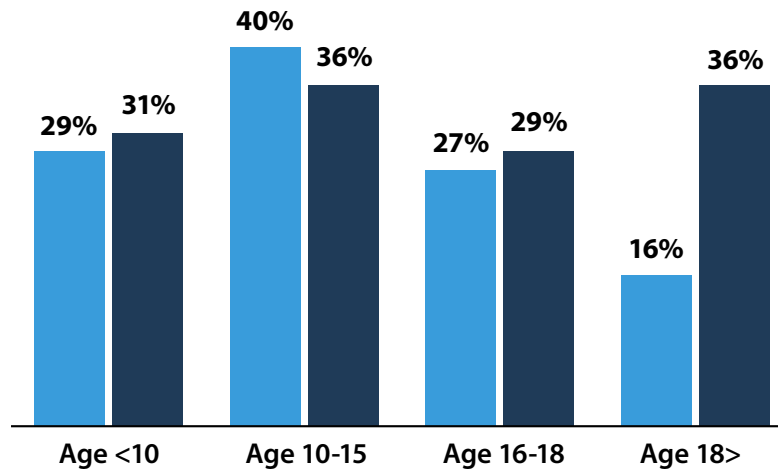


# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // HEALTH, SOCIAL & WELLBEING

## MENTAL HEALTH

29% of all children

experienced anxiety/panic disorders, depression or abused drugs and alcohol, on the passing of a parent



	Age <10		Age 10-15		Age 16-18		Age 18>	
Diagnosed depression	56%	65%	68%	53%	70%	64%	70%	67%
Drug abuse	22%	20%	24%	18%	10%	16%	10%	42%
Alcohol abuse	22%	26%	21%	24%	10%	24%	30%	67%
Anxiety or panic disorder	89%	59%	76%	49%	79%	36%	70%	58%

- Children reporting
- Parents reporting

“Diagnosed with depression, as well as many psychological impacts that have caused issues throughout my adult life.”

Anonymous, no insurance cover

Alarmingly, some of the highest statistics were in the younger age brackets, when losing a parent.

# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // HEALTH, SOCIAL & WELLBEING

## SOCIAL IMPACT

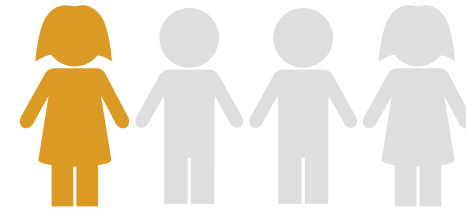
46% lost contact with some friends



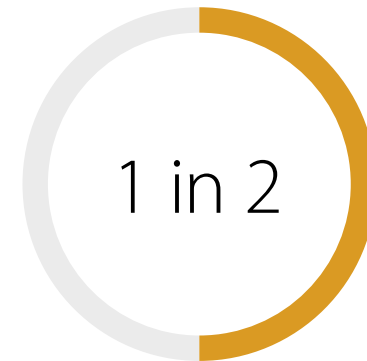
“Losing their mother and caregiver at a young age had a devastating emotional effect upon the children and put an enormous workload upon me for many years”

Anonymous, no insurance cover

Children are impacted socially and emotionally, with more than 1 in 4 reporting at least one mental health condition

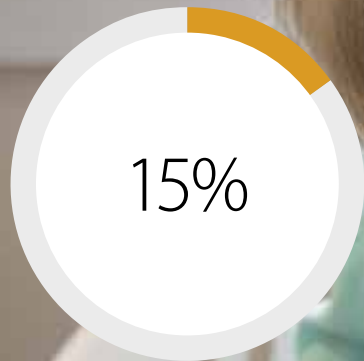


Almost 1 in 2 had a reduction in school activities



# IMPACT OF DEATH ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN // EDUCATION

15% of children had to move schools due to financial pressures



41% of children stated a worsening in academic performance

51% of parents would have liked to provide their child with more educational opportunities

