Irish Hospice Foundation
To die and grieve well wherever the place

40 YEARS OF IMPACT

National Bereavement Forum 2026

May 22 2026 | Ashling Hotel Dublin

9:30 am **Networking**

10:00 am **Welcome**

Orla Keegan (Director of Bereavement and Education, Irish Hospice Foundation)

10:10am **Research and Practice in Action - Lightening Presentations**

Exploring bereavement through research-informed practice to support compassionate, effective responses.

James O'Hagen (Head of Health Equity and Inclusion Programmes and Partnerships, LGBT Ireland)
Eimear Shields (National Organ Donor Coordinator, Organ Donation Transplant Ireland, HSE)
Dr Geena Kelly (Registrar in Palliative Medicine)
Liz Counihan (Healthcare Chaplain)
Ethan Levins (Founder, S'port for Grief)

11am **Panel Discussion and Q&A**

Hosted by Nicole Forster (Bereavement Development Manager, Irish Hospice Foundation)

11:30 am **Coffee Break**

12pm **Local Bereavement Networks: Building on What Works**

Sinead Shannon (Research Consultant)

A review of Irish Hospice Foundation's evaluation of Local Bereavement Networks, exploring how networks function, what impact they are having across Ireland, and considerations toward sustainability and future development.

12:45 pm **Q&A with the audience**

1:00 pm **Dying, Death and Bereavement in Ireland**

Avril Easton (Advocacy & Policy Manager, Irish Hospice Foundation)

Findings and insights made within Irish Hospice Foundation's report on Dying, Death and Bereavement in Ireland 2026. The report brings together national and international research and data to examine the current realities of dying, death and bereavement in Ireland, revealing emerging trends in these areas, highlighting concerns, and actions and recommendations that will deliver improvements.

1:30 pm **Lunch**

2:30 pm **Creative Pause**

An arts-informed, reflective activity led by Ben Robin Lucent, an interdisciplinary theatre-maker, storyteller, and Interfaith Minister specialising in sensory-led, autism-affirming theatre for neurodivergent children.

2:50 pm **Developing a Bereavement Care Model for Specialist Palliative Care in Ireland.**

Dr. Amanda Roberts (Bereavement Project Manager, Irish Hospice Foundation)
This session will provide an overview of the Bereavement Development in Specialist Palliative Care project, commissioned by the National Office for Palliative Care and being conducted by Irish Hospice Foundation.

3:10 pm **In Conversation: Research and Practice with Prof Philip Hyland and Ms Colette Lynskey**

A facilitated conversation exploring key insights, reflections and emerging learning from work in bereavement, bringing together both research and practice perspectives in an engaging discussion.

3:40 pm **Q&A with the audience**

4:00 pm **Closing**
Paula O'Reilly (CEO, Irish Hospice Foundation)