

This thesis is about bereavement interventions for the widowed in general and about a visiting service for older widowed individuals in particular. This visiting service is a bereavement intervention administered by trained volunteers who are all widowed themselves. The thesis considers questions such as 'do widows and widowers need help?' and 'which widows and widowers need help?'. The thesis also tries to answer the question 'is the visiting service for older widowed individuals cost-effective?'. The final chapter discusses the question 'for which widows and widowers is the visiting service for older widowed individuals cost-effective?'. This chapter leads up to the General Discussion, which contains a summary of the main findings, followed by discussion and directions for the future.

Intervening after the loss of a spouse: is it (cost-)effective and for whom?

Simone Onrust

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