



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SENATE INQUIRY HOLDS KEY TO FIXING STILLBIRTH DATA DISCREPANCIES**

“If you can measure it, you can identify it, and fix it.”

That’s the message from Stillbirth Foundation Australia to the Senate Select Committee looking into Stillbirth Education and Research.

It is commonly accepted that six stillbirths occur every day in Australia, but significant discrepancies occur across government agencies and internationally.

Stillbirths are currently reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and internationally by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Inconsistency occurs across all agencies in figures published, how they are reported and when they are reported.

AIHW last reported in 2012, and said there were 2,255 stillbirths, while in the same year the ABS reported the figure at 1,832.

The Foundation has called for the Inquiry to examine the existing published data, determine its reliability and recommend a more comprehensive approach to data collection and publication.

“We need greater consistency and reliability in the data,” Foundation CEO, Victoria Bowring said.

“Stillbirth funding needs to be significant, predictable, targeted and focused on both awareness and research. This can only be achieved if we have consistent and reliable data.

“This means better data collection, the ability to identify data at a more granular level and consistent reporting periods.”

The Foundation also added that there is a lack of coordination and long term planning on research priorities and funding.

**To find out about Stillbirth Foundation Australia: [stillbirthfoundation.org.au](http://stillbirthfoundation.org.au)**

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