

MEDIA RELEASE

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GROUND-BREAKING STILLBIRTH REPORT WILL PAVE WAY FOR MORE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES

Six babies die a day from stillbirth, and this tragic toll has not changed in decades because of a lack of focus, research, education, leadership and action from government – until today.

Today, the Australian Parliament released a ground-breaking report that lights the way for new action and approaches when it comes to stillbirth research and education.

The report gives voice to the parents of stillborn children and voice to the medical professionals, politicians and government employees who wish to work together to drive the stillbirth toll down.

“Today we finally acknowledge stillbirth is not a series of private tragedies, it’s a national health issue that needs a national response,” Stillbirth Foundation Australia CEO, Kate Lynch, said.

“Today the thousands of Australians who have been touched by stillbirth know that not only more can and should be done to prevent others going through the same horror, but it will.

“After years of campaigning from the Foundation, we now have attention and a plan that can be translated into funding and action to drive the stillbirth toll down.”

Stillbirth Foundation Australia considers the report a blueprint, which when translated into action will see more healthy births in Australia. Central to the Committee’s [recommendations](#) is:

- The development and implementation of a National Stillbirth Action Plan aimed at reducing the rate of stillbirth in Australia by 20 per cent over the next three years; which includes:
 - a nationally-coordinated and consistent framework for stillbirth reporting and data collection;
 - an online register of stillbirth research and data;
 - national research priorities; and
 - a public education campaign.

“For too long, families have suffered stillbirth in silence. This report is the first coordinated, national opportunity for positive change,” Ms Lynch said.

The Foundation, together with others in the health sector, praises Committee members, Senator McCarthy, Senator Molan, Senator Gichuhi, Senator Keneally, Senator Rice and Senator Bilyk for their leadership.

“This process so far has had incredible bipartisan support and we look forward to continuing that as we move to the implementation of recommendations and actions.

“The Committee worked in a thoughtful and hardworking way, putting families at the centre of its deliberations.

“Alongside Government, the Foundation stands ready to lead on this issue, and save more lives,” Ms Lynch said.

The Senate Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education report can be found [here](#).

To find out more about Stillbirth Foundation Australia visit: www.stillbirthfoundation.org.au

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