

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Friday, 8 March 2019*

**STILLBIRTH LEADERS URGE COAG TO ACT ON STILLBIRTH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

Stillbirth Foundation Australia and the National Centre for Research Excellence in Stillbirth (Stillbirth CRE) are urging today's meeting of the COAG Health Council to advance a Stillbirth National Action Plan.

**Six children are stillborn every day in Australia and a Stillbirth National Action Plan is needed to ensure more healthy births and better support families.**

In December 2018, a Senate Committee released a ground-breaking [report](#) into the future of stillbirth research and education which provided the blueprint for a national response to stillbirth.

**Stillbirth Foundation Australia CEO, Kate Lynch, said a comprehensive approach to addressing the problem is urgently needed.**

**"To save lives, it is crucial that we improve medical practitioner education, public education, research and data collection," Ms Lynch said.**

"We know that standardising maternity care is an important first step.

"In the past there has been too much inconsistency in maternal care and in the delivery of vital information and the care of expectant mothers.

**"Federal, State and Territory governments and health agencies must work together to achieve an evidence-based, consistent approach," she said.**

**Mater researcher and CRE Director, Professor Vicki Flenady said data collection and research are critical to future improvements.**

"To improve our understanding and save more lives, we need comprehensive data to be collected, and an increased focus on research," Professor Flenady said.

**"With more research, we can save more lives and reduce heartache for families into the future.**

"We need to address this comprehensively, and the COAG Health Council must treat this as a priority," she said.

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

To find out more about the Stillbirth CRE visit: [www.stillbirthcre.org.au](http://www.stillbirthcre.org.au)

**Media contact: Nick Trainor 0407 078 138**