

## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 25 March 2019

### **SOUTHERN SYDNEY LOCALS RAISING VITAL FUNDS TO SAVE YOUNG LIVES**

With six children stillborn every day in Australia, two Southern Sydney locals are joining campaigners to raise much-needed funds to support families who have been impacted by stillbirth.

The [Sydney 2 CAMberra Charity Ride](#), which was founded after a young Sydney couple lost their son Cameron through stillbirth, will see Lucas Mara and Ryan Ellmoos riding from Sydney to Canberra.

The Southern Sydney locals will be raising significant funds, awareness and support for families affected by stillbirth.

“As a father who lost a child it’s about riding and spending time with the child you lost, and feeling closer to the ones you lost,” Lucas from Loftus said.

“It helps build up resilience in myself and others, talking about your loss helps and it helps me to talk about my son Aidan. This is our way of keeping our children alive in our hearts and minds.

“This ride builds the support network in the community. Its uplifting and allows for our children to make a big impact on the world. Their loss keeps us moving in the right direction and inspires us to do great things.”

Ryan from Kirrawee said he rides as another opportunity to remember his son Blake who was taken too soon.

“We are truly blessed to have 3 happy and healthy kids now and they all take great pride talking about their brother Blake,” Ryan said.

“The Sydney2Camberra ride is a great community of like-minded people who are there to offer support and help to other families who are going through the same sorrow.

“The funds we raise will help with the bereavement and support to the families of the six babies that are stillborn every day in Australia. Our aim is to help drive this number towards zero.”

Stillbirth Foundation Australia CEO, Kate Lynch said the ride is an incredible initiative which will support families touched by stillbirth and change lives for the better.

“The *Sydney 2 CAMberra Charity Ride* is an incredible initiative which raises much-needed funds to support families touched by stillbirth and infant and child loss,” Ms Lynch said.

“Six families experience stillbirth every single day in Australia and far more needs to be done to support them after this tragic experience.

“Because of Lucas’ and Ryan’s efforts, vital funds will be raised to support families who have lost a child.

“Crucially, funding will also support medical research grants to help us understand what else can be done to save more lives and reduce the stillbirth toll.

“By supporting *Sydney to CAMberra* you are ensuring that the voices of thousands of families across Australia who have been touched by stillbirth get heard.”

*Sydney 2 CAMberra* has raised more than \$1.23 million in the past seven years to support families who have been impacted by the loss of a child. The goal for 2019 is to raise \$300,000, which will help fund:

- Counselling for families



- 24-hour free telephone support
- Memorial services
- Medical research grants
- Public education campaigns
- Improving policies and processes.

To support Lucas' and Ryan's efforts, you can donate here: [sydney2camberra.com/donate-now/](https://sydney2camberra.com/donate-now/)

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

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