

MEDIA RELEASE

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STILLBIRTH FOUNDATION WELCOMES LABOR'S PAID PARENTAL LEAVE BILL

The Stillbirth Foundation welcomes new legislation that would guarantee parents who work in the private sector get equal access to paid parental leave in the tragic event of a stillbirth.

Specifically addressing the first recommendation of the Senate Select Committee on Stillbirth in 2018, Federal Labor's legislation would:

- Achieve equality in private sector paid parental leave regardless of whether the pregnancy ended in a live birth or stillbirth.
- Remove any unnecessary ambiguity in private sector leave entitlements, relieving parents of a significant stress.

"This is an historic moment in the mission to secure paid parental leave equity in Australia," said Stillbirth Foundation Australia CEO, Leigh Brezler.

"Having legislated access to the same parental leave they would have received had their baby been born alive will help destigmatise stillbirth, provide parents with the time they need to grieve and recover from childbirth, and remove confusion about entitlements.

"Despite the relatively common occurrence of stillbirth, with six babies stillborn every day in Australia, many employer-funded parental leave policies are not clear about what support is available to parents in this situation, instead addressing stillbirth on a case-by-case basis.

"Today's bill, if passed, would remove a lot of undue stress and uncertainty that not only bereaved parents but also employers face during a time of immense grief and loss.

"Some of Australia's largest private sector employers have signed our [corporate registry](#), which ensures equal treatment if a parent has a baby born alive or still and now covers over one million employees.

"We are so grateful to private sector companies that already have these policies in place - which through this new legislation would move from best practice, to standard practice.

"Senator Keneally has been an incredible advocate for families of stillborn children throughout Australia.

"We thank her for her leadership and steadfast commitment to addressing this issue in the Federal Parliament."

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

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