

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Tuesday, 2 April 2024*

**NEW RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED TO DRIVE DOWN STILLBIRTH RATES AND TO IMPROVE BEREAVEMENT CARE**

Leading voice for stillbirth action, Stillbirth Foundation Australia, together with the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth (Stillbirth CRE), today announced major new funding for stillbirth research.

**Three innovative research grants focussed on developing tests to predict babies at risk of stillbirth, developing programs to enable bereaved families to actively participate in research programs, and improve our understanding of the long-term effects of stillbirth on parents and families.**

Together, the grants represent the Foundation's and Stillbirth CRE's commitment to improving research collaboration to deliver tangible impacts on the tragic stillbirth toll, which far exceeds the road toll.

**The major grant of \$30,000 was awarded to Prof Tu'uhevaha Kaitu'u-Lino who co-leads the Translational Obstetrics Group at the Mercy Hospital for Women** who is developing a blood test that could be offered late in pregnancy to identify babies at risk of stillbirth. Such a test could inform care, ensuring that those at high risk receive closer surveillance and timed delivery before a stillbirth occurs.

**A grant of \$20,000 was awarded to Dr Christine Andrews from Mater Research Institute at the University of Queensland** to support her project to enable bereaved parents to participate in a co-designed, sustainable framework to enhance stillbirth research quality and translation.

**A second grant of \$20,000 was awarded to A/Prof Fran Boyle from the Institute for Social Sciences Research, University of Queensland** to investigate the long-term effects of stillbirth on bereaved families.

Stillbirth Foundation Australia Chair, A/Prof Sean Seeho, said the funding will work to save more lives and better support families touched by stillbirth.

"With six children stillborn every day in Australia, further research to improve quality of care for pregnant women and to more effectively support families is urgently needed," A/Prof Seeho said.

**"This research is only possible because of the extraordinary efforts of the Foundation's supporters, who give up their time to raise funds to invest into research priorities."**

**"These are often people who have been touched by stillbirth themselves, and are devoting time, effort and money to stop it from happening to others."**

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)