

STILLBIRTH ROUNDTABLE 2 SUMMARY

2 DECEMBER 2020

The Stillbirth Roundtable (the Roundtable), facilitated by the former Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer of the Commonwealth Department of Health, Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms, was held at Parliament House on 2 December 2019. The aim of the Roundtable was to enable key stakeholders to consider the Draft National Stillbirth Action and Implementation Plan and have input in to its content prior to broader consultation occurring early in 2020.

A range of individuals and organisations with expertise in stillbirth, including health professionals, researchers, key professional groups, policy officers, representatives from organisations from non-government organisations, and bereaved parents attended the Roundtable. A list of participants is at [Attachment A](#).

Before considering the Plan in detail, participants acknowledged the babies lost to stillbirth and the impact stillbirth has on bereaved families.

STRUCTURE OF PLAN

Participants generally liked the structure of the Plan but felt it could be enhanced with some changes. It was agreed that the language could be interpreted as excluding bereaved fathers and suggested using the term 'parent/parents' rather than the term 'woman/women' which was intended to extend to partners.

Participants agreed that the vision should be high level and aspirational rather than detailed. Views differed on whether principles should be included in the Plan.

HIGH LEVEL THEMES

- **Equity and diversity:** There was agreement that equity and diversity were key issues that should feature prominently throughout the Plan.
- **Safety and quality:** participants noted the importance of incorporating safety and quality and linkages with *Woman-centred care: Strategic directions for Australian maternity services* throughout the Plan.
- **Engagement with bereaved families:** There was agreement that engagement with bereaved families was important. Bereavement care needs to be holistic and encompass clinical, community, and cultural aspects. It needs to cover the whole family, not just women, and incorporate mental and emotional health.
- **Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and culturally and linguistically diverse groups:** It was acknowledged that there is a need to recognise the different perspectives and strategies required to reduce stillbirth in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and women from culturally and linguistically diverse groups. It was agreed that these two groups should be separated.
- **Raising awareness:** Participants noted that the Plan should separate public awareness and health professional education. Also, the focus needs to be on 'risk factors' for stillbirth - not restricted to 'modifiable risk factors'.
- **Data:** Approaches to improve the quality, consistency and timeliness of data need consideration to enable the development of a monitoring framework.

Participant List

| | Organisation | Representative |
|-----|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Ampersand Health Science Writing (Technical Writer) | Ms Jenny Ramson |
| 2. | Attorney-General's Department | Ms Lace Wang |
| 3. | Attorney-General's Department | Ms Virginia Jay |
| 4. | Australian College of Midwives | Dr Megan Cooper |
| 5. | Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care | Ms Gillian Giles |
| 6. | Australian Institute of Health & Welfare | Ms Bernice Cropper |
| 7. | Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB) | Dr David Abbott |
| 8. | Bereaved Parent Representative | Mr Andrew McBride |
| 9. | Bereaved Parent Representative | Ms Samantha Isfahani |
| 10. | Burnet Institute | Professor Caroline Homer |
| 11. | Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives | Ms Marni Tuala |
| 12. | Griffith University, School of Medicine | Professor David Ellwood |
| 13. | Mater Research – Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth | Professor Vicki Flenady |
| 14. | Mater Research – Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth | Ms Deanna Stuart-Butler |
| 15. | Multicultural Centre for Women's Health | Dr Adele Murdolo |
| 16. | Murdoch University | Ms Valerie Ah Chee |
| 17. | National Perinatal Epidemiology & Statistics Unit (NPESU), UNSW | Assoc Professor Georgina Chambers |
| 18. | National Rural Health Alliance | Dr Gabrielle O'Kane |
| 19. | Pillars of Strength | Ms Julia Bowen |
| 20. | Red Nose | Ms Keren Ludski |
| 21. | Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) | Dr Sean Seeho |
| 22. | Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) | Ms Melissa Doyle |
| 23. | Royal Prince Alfred Hospital | Dr Adrienne Gordon |
| 24. | SANDS | Ms Jackie Mead |
| 25. | SIDS SA | Ms Helen Shaw |
| 26. | South Australian Health and Medical Research Centre | Assoc Professor Philippa Middleton |
| 27. | Still Aware | Assoc Prof Jane Warland |
| 28. | Stillbirth Foundation of Australia | Ms Leigh Brezler |
| 29. | Telethon Kids Institute | Prof Carrington Shepherd |
| 30. | The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia | Dr Diane Payton |
| 31. | University of Melbourne | Professor Jeremy Oats |

| | Organisation | Representative |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| States and Territories | | |
| 32. | QLD | Mr Michael Rice |
| 33. | NSW | Professor Mike Nicholl |
| 34. | NT | Ms Belinda Jennings |
| 35. | SA | Ms Helen Thomas |
| 36. | TAS | Assoc Professor Francine Douce |
| 37. | ACT | Ms Sarah Stewart |
| Politicians (attended part day) | | |
| 38. | Liberal Party of Australia | Hon Greg Hunt MP |
| 39. | Liberal Party of Australia | Ms Nicolle Flint MP |
| 40. | Australian Labor Party | Hon Chris Bowen MP |
| 41. | Australian Labor Party | Senator Malarndirri McCarthy |
| 42. | Australian Labor Party | Senator Kristina Keneally |
| Department of Health Staff | | |
| 43. | Department of Health | Dr Andrew Singer |
| 44. | Department of Health | Ms Alison McMillan |
| 45. | Department of Health | Ms Chloe Stoddart |
| 46. | Department of Health | Ms Bridget Carrick |
| 47. | Department of Health | Ms Samantha Diplock |
| 48. | Department of Health | Ms Miika Coppard |
| 49. | Department of Health | Ms Anita Soar |