**Template for a submission: parents**

Tell your pregnancy and birth story (Give as much or as little detail as you are comfortable with. You can include a photo of your baby if you would like to)

Identify and say more about what you think could be done about anything within your story that comes under the Committee’s terms of reference [SUBMISSIONS OPEN: Select Committee into Stillbirth in South Australia.](https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/News/2024/11/08/13/00/SUBMISSIONS-OPEN-Select-Committee-into-Stillbirth-in-South-Australia) It would be helpful for the committee if you use a heading TOR and say which TOR you are addressing e.g

**TOR**

**In this submission I’d like to address TOR a, b and d**

1. When I was pregnant I received the Still Aware “your pregnancy” brochure and fridge magnet. I’m sure this information helped save my baby’s life because......
2. ..........

d) .......

Final paragraph. Thank the committee for the opportunity to share your story and for taking your recommendations for change (state them again in dot points)

**Resources that may be helpful to refer to when preparing your submission:**

Federal Senate inquiry submissions [Submissions – Parliament of Australia](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Stillbirth_Research_and_Education/Stillbirth/Submissions)

* Authors of these submissions were addressing the Senate Committees TOR however browsing through these may help provide you with ideas for your own submission

National stillbirth action plan [National Stillbirth Action and Implementation Plan | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-stillbirth-action-and-implementation-plan?language=en#:~:text=The%20plan%20includes%20short%2C%20medium%20and%20long-term%20actions,and%20includes%20actions%20to%20address%20these%20equity%20gaps.)

* Note this is a National plan. However, there may be items you can refer to in the plan that you feel the SA Government can address.

Independent report from Nous on [how the Action plan is going so far](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-stillbirth-action-and-implementation-plan-evaluation-report-2023)

AIHW mothers and babies report. [Australia's mothers and babies, Stillbirths and neonatal deaths in Australia, 2021 - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mothers-babies/australias-mothers-babies/contents/stillbirths-neonatal-deaths/stillbirths-and-neonatal-deaths-in-australia)

* Note data are reported 2+ years after the year in which the stillbirth occurred ie preliminary data was published for 2022 in November 2024 and was still lacking complete data from the ACT for that year.

Quality statement for care [Stillbirth Clinical Care Standard | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/clinical-care-standards/stillbirth-clinical-care-standard)

* These standards were written to support best practice in pregnancy for stillbirth prevention and investigation, and bereavement care following perinatal loss. Note they are not meant to be mandated policy. They were released in 2022 so any care provided after that date should reflect these standards.

You are also very welcome to refer to any of my blog posts i.e.

<https://stellarresearch.weebly.com/blog/stillbirth-rate-in-this-country-is-unusually-high-but-dont-worry-its-only-a-trend-to-be-interpreted-with-caution>

[What were we thinking? - Stellar Research](https://stellarresearch.weebly.com/blog/what-were-we-thinking)

**More information and ideas that might help you address the Terms of Reference.**

TOR a) When you, or your loved one was expecting, what did you know about stillbirth? Did your health care provider tell you any information about stillbirth? What type of education did you receive about how to reduce your risk of stillbirth? Where did this information come from? What did you want to know that perhaps you were not told? What do you think we need to implement to improve stillbirth prevention education and awareness in South Australia?

TOR b) What public education/awareness  programs do you think we need based on your experience? Did you access any particular organisation for information? If so who and how did their information help you keep your baby safe?

TOR c) What type of model of care did you receive during your antenatal care- say how you think this contributed to your baby’s stillbirth or livebirth? What would you like to see change i.e., more publicly funded access to midwifery continuity of care.

TOR d) If you are a parent of a stillbirth baby or baby born after your loss , or both,  the committee would like to know:  What type of support you received in the hospital and once you left the hospital? Did you have follow-up care and was this physical , mental or both? What services did you access and did you think they were supportive of you, your needs and your experience. If you are currently pregnant or have had a live born baby what were your needs during that pregnancy and do you think they were met? If you accessed the ‘Wattle clinic’ at the Adelaide WCH please include these experiences of this service  in your submission. If you are from interstate or overseas and have received care from a dedicated subsequent pregnancy clinic please tell the committee about how this service met your needs.

TOR e) What training do you think health care providers need to help in the PREVENTION of stillbirth and in supporting BEREAVEMENT care. Do you think that health care providers receive enough education in this area? Do you have any recommendations for health care provider education in the area of stillbirth?

TOR f) What was your experience following the loss of your baby with trying to find out why it happened? Was it respectful? Did you feel heard?

TOR (g) This is an opportunity to ask for better data collection and reporting. Currently national stillbirth numbers are published in “preliminary form” 2 years after the stillbirths they are reporting. The final data are published 3 years later. Please include in your submission your thoughts on how improving data publication times might be helpful in addressing the stillbirth rate. In this TOR you also have an opportunity to express your opinion on current status of the stillbirth infant’s death not being able to be investigated because they are not considered a living person until they have shown signs of life separate from their mother. Have you been in a position where you would have liked to see your stillborn baby’s death investigated but this wasn’t possible under current law?  If so do you have any suggestions for the committee as to how this might be better managed?

TOR (h) are you aware of any stillbirth research efforts currently underway or completed in South Australia? If so what research was it? Were you involved as a participant or a consumer advisor and what experiences would you like to share about this? Do you have any suggestions for research that might be useful to conduct?

TOR i) any other related matters . This gives you an opportunity to put anything in your submission that is a burning issue for you that perhaps you feel is important but hasn’t been addressed in the TORs above.

**FAQ:**

Q:I am not a South Australian resident /organisation  can I still make a submission?

A: Yes you can but please note this  inquiry is being run by the South Australian Parliament and any recommendations the committee makes to the SA Government will only be actioned by the South Australian government in SA.