



Celebrating the Success of the Every Week Counts National Collaborative

The Every Week Counts - National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative achieved a significant milestone with a Showcase Event held at Parliament House in Canberra on 19 March 2024. The Showcase brought together participating hospital teams, health service executive leaders, state and federal Ministers, consumers, and leaders in maternity healthcare to celebrate the success and to acknowledge the achievement of all the participating teams.

“
I really enjoyed the team presentations who showcased their work and how they achieved success.
”

Over 60 Hospitals and Health Services participated in the Collaborative between September 2022 – March 2024. This included hospitals from every state and territory in Australia, including those in the largest metropolitan hospitals, and small regional and rural hospitals.





The quality improvement approach supported collaboration across disciplines and gave ownership to the grass roots people rather than it being seen as someone else's responsibility and sitting outside of usual work. ”

Data continues to be collected to understand the impact the National Collaborative has had on outcomes for women and their babies. We can reveal that this program has been a major success, with an estimated 4000 babies prevented from being born too early each year since 2021. Final data will be published in peer reviewed journals, and an external evaluation has been commissioned by the Alliance to understand the impact of the program of work.

WHA and the Alliance are keen to expand the program to include other interested maternity services if the Commonwealth government funding is renewed in the May 2024 Budget. Resources to support uptake of strategies to prevent preterm birth prevention are being developed, including a 'How-To Guide'. These resources will be available through WHA to support services to learn from the success of the teams who participated in the National Collaborative and wish to work locally to embed strategies to reduce early birth.



The wonderful thing about this collaborative was the interaction with other health services, the networking and sharing resources to avoid duplication of effort. ”



Every Week Counts Collaborative Showcase Highlights

At the Showcase, representatives from some of our key stakeholders shared their insight on the Collaborative and how it is poised to make a lasting impact on Australia's maternity sector.

[Watch the Highlights Video here](#)

Inspiring Yarning Circle with First Nations women at the Showcase Event

Connecting with, listening to, and learning from First Nations leaders on ensuring culturally appropriate care and support for healthier births for First Nations babies remains crucial in addressing the early birth rates in First Nations communities across Australia.

As part of the recent Showcase Event for the Every Week Counts National Collaborative, a very special 'Yarn' circle involving leading First Nations health professionals, scholars and researchers inspired powerful reflections and ideas on how to deliver culturally safe maternal and newborn care for First Nations communities.

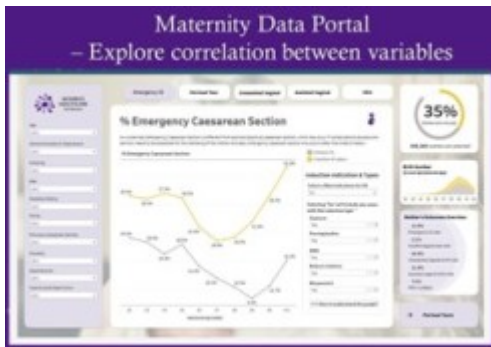
The panellists provided insights on the importance of Continuity of Care with a First Nations healthcare provider, supporting education of preterm birth to expecting First Nations mothers, and the strong benefits of partnering with Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations. This included the showcasing of participating maternity services that have been providing support to First Nations mothers through partnerships with a First Nations organisation and supporting the First Nations midwifery workforce within their service.

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Pictured: Dr Kiarna Brown, Prof Cath Chamberlain, Maria Smiler-Cairns, and Deanna Stuart-Butler in their Yarn 'Making a difference for First Nations women, families & communities'

[Watch the video here](#)



Preterm Birth Prevention Dashboard

WHA is partnering with the Alliance in the development of a National Preterm Birth Prevention Dashboard. The Dashboard is being designed to provide insights for clinicians, service executives and system managers to drive and support improvements in care and outcomes for women and their babies. The Dashboard will draw upon the WHA clinical dataset to provide meaningful analytics to clinicians to quickly identify the pathways of care that are achieving the best outcomes for women with common characteristics.

[Read more here](#)

Evaluation of the National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative

A comprehensive evaluation of the National Collaborative is underway, which aims to broadly disseminate the learning and results of the National Collaborative to a wide audience. Work is underway on multiple publications in international peer reviewed journals, as well as through public reports to maximize the potential impact of this work.

[Read more here](#)





Every Week Counts Implementation Resources

To support greater uptake of clinical strategies that are found to reduce early birth, several implementation resources are being developed. These resources will be available through WHA and the Alliance to support services to learn from the success of the teams who participated in the National Collaborative and wish to work locally to embed strategies to reduce early birth.

[Read more here](#)



Our Partners

The Every Week Counts National Collaborative is a joint collaboration between the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, Women's Healthcare Australasia (WHA), the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and Safer Care Victoria, which is being funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF).

Partner organisations include Women's and Babies Research, Every Week Counts, Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth, Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Australian College of Midwives.

For further information please contact

Women's Healthcare Australasia

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