

BIG NEWS!

The rate of early birth has dropped by **7-10%**

That's an incredible **~4,000 fewer** early births every year since the program began in 2018.

Australian Preterm and Early Term Birth Prevention Program

Dear Caitlin

We are pleased to share with you the news that new data, as published in [The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health](#), has shown that our world-first initiative to reduce preterm and early term births in Australia has led to a significant decrease in rates of potentially harmful early birth.

The Lancet paper, '*Reducing rates of preterm and early term singleton births safely in Australia: results of the national prevention program*', presents detailed outcomes from a six-year preterm birth prevention program first introduced in mid-2018.

Findings from the Lancet paper have shown that:

- From 2018-2021, through activities of the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, the rate of preterm birth (birth before 37 weeks) was reduced by approximately 8%.
- From 2021-2024, through the expansion of Round 1 the Every Week Counts National Preterm Birth Prevention Program, an approximate 10% reduction was achieved in the early term ages (37-39 weeks – a period associated with increased risks of learning and behavioural problems).

Through the two, 3-year phases we have shown that using current knowledge, we have lowered the rate of harmful early birth by 7-10% which represents approximately 4000 fewer cases of early birth each year across Australia since the program was launched.

Key to the success of the national preterm birth prevention program has been the previous and ongoing efforts of clinicians, consumers and key stakeholders across the country of which you are a part of.

The manuscript published in the Lancet contains the names of 300 Australian researchers and healthcare workers and describes nearly 2 million Australian births.

The hard work and dedication of thousands of healthcare workers across our many healthcare facilities, together with support from government at all levels, and the enthusiastic involvement of pregnant women and their families across Australia, will ensure we are able to build on our successes as part of Round 2 of our Every Week Counts National Program.

We encourage you to share the results and resources from the Lancet paper and thank you for your continued work in shaping Australia's world-first national program to safely reduce rates of preterm and early term birth.

[Learn more here](#)

Australia is one of the **safest places in the world** to have a baby.

Now, the **Australian Preterm and Early Term Birth Prevention Program** has made it **even safer**.

L Read the full article in **The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health**

Australian Preterm and Early Term Birth Prevention Program



ABC News online

World-first preterm birth prevention program has lowered the rate of early births by about 4,000 a year

[Read the article](#)



Australian Government
**Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

**Media Release from The Hon
Rebecca White MP**

World-first program preventing early births

[Read the article](#)



The Australian

Premature births cut by up to 10 per cent in Australia-led program

[Read the article](#)



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Share this exciting news on your health services and health departments social media. This is not just for some; this is for all to celebrate and be part of the story.

Tag @everyweekcounts on Instagram and Facebook

Tag @Every Week Counts Australian Preterm Birth and Early Term Birth Prevention Program on LinkedIn

[Access the toolkit here](#)



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