



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy
Chair
Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education
Email: stillbirth.sen@aph.gov.au

Our ref M18/5731

Malarndirri

Dear Chair

Thank you for your email regarding the Senate Inquiry into the Future of Stillbirth Research and Education in Australia.

I have enclosed the NSW Ministry of Health's response to the committee's questions.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. I look forward to reading the committee's final report and the Australian Government's response.

Yours sincerely

Brad Hazzard MP

Encl.

27 NOV 2018

*My best wishes to
you.*

**Senate Inquiry into the Future of Stillbirth Research and Education in Australia
– NSW Ministry of Health response to the committee’s questions**

Question 1. For how long can a body be stored in a NSW morgue? Is this time limit articulated in legislation, regulation or policy?

The Public Health Regulation 2012 includes provisions relating to the storage and handling of bodies.

Under clause 54 of the Regulation, a body cannot normally be retained by a person other than a funeral director for longer than 5 days. However, the Secretary of NSW Health may approve, in a particular case, a body being retained for longer than 5 days, subject to any conditions that the Secretary considers appropriate.

However, clause 54 of the Regulation does not apply to bodies that are stored at premises licensed under the *Anatomy Act 1977* or that are subject to an inquest under the *Coroners Act 2009*.

Question 2. How many deceased babies have been left in NSW morgues for longer than 3 months?

The NSW Ministry of Health does not collect this information.

Question 2a. What were the circumstances of those babies (that is, was the baby Indigenous or non-Indigenous, and what was the cause of the baby’s death?

The NSW Ministry of Health does not collect this information.

**Question 3. Have Rural Maternity Units been closed in NSW over the last five years?
Question 3a. If so, how many and in what locations?**

Local health districts are responsible for planning services and developing models of maternity care for rural and regional populations to meet their local population needs. Changes to service provision are made within the local maternity network to ensure the care of women and babies occurs at the appropriate level of service, and that safe access to services is maintained.

Question 3b. How many Rural Maternity Units are currently operating in NSW and where are they located?

There are 46 maternity units within the seven local health districts (LHDs) that are defined as rural or regional by NSW Health. These maternity units are listed:

Far West LHD

- Broken Hill Health Service

Hunter New England LHD

- John Hunter Hospital
- Maitland Hospital
- Tamworth Hospital
- Manning Hospital
- Armidale and New England Hospital
- Gunnedah District Hospital

- Inverell District Hospital
- Moree District Hospital
- Muswellbrook District Hospital
- Narrabri District Hospital
- Scott Memorial Hospital – Scone
- Belmont Hospital
- Glen Innes District Hospital
- Gloucester Soldier's Memorial Hospital
- Singleton District Hospital

Mid North Coast LHD

- Port Macquarie Base Hospital
- Coffs Harbour Health Campus
- Kempsey District Hospital
- Macksville District Hospital

Murrumbidgee LHD

- Wagga Wagga Base Hospital
- Griffith Hospital
- Young District Hospital
- Cootamundra Hospital
- Deniliquin Hospital
- Leeton Hospital
- Temora and District Hospital
- Tumut Health Service
- Narrandera District Hospital

Northern NSW LHD

- Lismore Base Hospital
- The Tweed Hospital
- Grafton Base Hospital
- Mullumbimby and District Hospital
- Murwillumbah District Hospital

Southern NSW LHD

- Goulburn Hospital
- Moruya District Hospital
- Queanbeyan District Hospital
- Bega District South East Regional Hospital
- Cooma Hospital and Health Service

Western NSW LHD

- Dubbo Hospital
- Orange Hospital
- Bathurst Hospital
- Cowra District Hospital
- Forbes District Hospital
- Mudgee District Hospital
- Parkes District Hospital