



Government  
of South Australia

Hon Stephen Wade MLC  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Hon Senator Malarndirri McCarthy  
Chair  
Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator McCarthy

Thank you for your letter dated 21 September 2018, requesting a response to the Senate Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education's questions on notice.

As requested, please find below information in response to these questions.

1. For how long can a body be stored in a South Australian morgue? Is this time limit articulated in legislation, regulation or policy?
  - There are no legislative or SA Health policy requirements dictating the length of time that a body can be stored in a South Australian morgue.
  - The length of time a body can be stored in a South Australian morgue varies depending on the location of the morgue.
  - The decision is facility-based and is in accordance with what is deemed appropriate by the operational management of that facility.
  - However under sub-section 38(3) of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registrations Act 1996* if a body is not disposed of within 30 days of death, a written statement must be given to the Registrar.
2. How many deceased babies have been left in South Australian morgues for longer than 3 months?
  - a. 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)?
    - As meeting this request would necessitate an audit, SA Health will contact the secretariat so that the scope of the request can be clearly defined.

3. Have Rural Maternity Units been closed in South Australia over the last five years?

a. If so, how many and in what locations?

- Three rural maternity units have been closed in the last five years. These are Millicent in 2013, Quorn in 2014 and Tanunda in 2018.

b. How many Rural Maternity Units are currently operating in South Australia and where are they located?

- There are 20 maternity units located across the six regions of Country Health SA. Locations are provided in the following table:

South east (SE) Region	Flinders Upper North (FUN) Region	Eyre Far North (EFN) Region	Riverland Mallee Coorong (RMC) Region	Yorke and Northern (Y&N) Region	Barossa Hills Fleurieu (BHF) Region
Mount Gambier	Whyalla	Ceduna	Murray Bridge	Clare	Mount Barker
Naracoorte	Port Augusta	Port Lincoln	Loxton	Jamestown	Kangaroo Island
			Berri	Crystal Brook	South Coast
			Waikerie	Port Pirie	Gawler
				Walleroo	Kapunda

Yours sincerely

Stephen Wade  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

19 October 2018