

MEDIA RELEASE

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Public Hospitals are Failing

FamilyVoice Australia is deeply alarmed by the newly released study revealing significantly higher rates of stillbirths, neonatal deaths, and maternal trauma in public hospital births compared to private maternity care.

The peer-reviewed research, published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, uncovered that birth trauma, haemorrhage, and even fatalities are disturbingly more common in public hospital deliveries – with newborn death rates double that of private hospitals, and mothers three times more likely to suffer birth trauma.

“This is absolutely shocking,” said Andrew McColl, FamilyVoice Queensland State Director. “We cannot remain silent while Australian mothers and babies are put at increased risk because of systemic failures in public maternity care.”

The study examined over 368,000 births across NSW, Queensland and Victoria, and found that fragmented midwifery-led models in public hospitals contributed to consistently poorer outcomes, including higher rates of oxygen deprivation, perineal tearing, and NICU admissions. By contrast, the private system, where obstetricians lead care and caesareans are more readily available when needed, demonstrated far safer results.

“This isn’t about ideology – this is about life and death,” McColl continued. “Every mother deserves the safest possible birth experience, and the findings of this report expose a public system in crisis. It is unthinkable that private maternity services, which are clearly saving lives, are struggling to survive and could disappear within a decade.”

FamilyVoice calls on state and federal governments to take urgent action to ensure that private maternity care remains accessible and sustainable for all Australian families.

“Expectant mothers should not be forced into a system that dramatically increases the risk to their babies. The government must act now to save private maternity care before more lives are needlessly lost.”

Further details:

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