

**Media Release**  
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BETTER ACCESS  
— AUSTRALIA —

## **OCTOBER 15: INTERNATIONAL PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY**

For the first year Australia joins the international community in officially recognising October 15 as 'Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day'.

This Friday, Better Access Australia acknowledges families who have experienced loss through stillbirth, infant death or miscarriage.

"It has been an experience of great honour and humility to have been given the chance to uplift the stories of parents and families who have lost their babies to rare disease through our newborn screening campaign. Hearing their pain is not easy. Living this pain must be endlessly heartbreaking," said Better Access Australia Chair, Felicity McNeill.

"Friday prompts the community to pause and honour these stories and memories. It has been a hard-fought for day but an important step in breaking the silence that has too long perpetuated suffering behind closed doors."

"Let us all acknowledge that more than 100,000 people in our community go through the pain of losing a child every year, be it from miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death.

"Earlier this year the Australian Senate passed a motion to formally recognise the pain and heartbreak many families experience. It was our elected representatives not only reflecting their communities, but also leading the community. As a result of their leadership days like this are possible where we can support all mothers, fathers, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and all family members reflecting on the loss a much loved and wanted child.

"It has been heartening to see the Senate continue this leadership role passing a bill for two days of paid bereavement leave for parents who experience miscarriage. Whilst the formal recognition of October 15 is a welcomed symbolic gesture, bills like these provide material benefits for these families further helping to break this silence. We look forward to the passage of this Bill through the House of Representatives in the next sitting.

"We want to thank organisations such as [SANDS](#) and the [Pink Elephants Support Network](#) for the work they continue to do in the space both in advocacy but most importantly in supporting families.

This week's day of remembrance also coincides with [International Day of Rural Women](#). Better Access Australia recognises the strength and pride of rural Australia and the women who live there. Yet, we acknowledge the challenges they face as multiple federal and state inquiries right now have illustrated the challenges of access to support and health services in our rural and remote communities.

All women in Australia need equality of access to support and health services, but the gap in access to these services in rural Australia is a known problem and one that doctors, nurses, academics, bureaucrats, politicians, and the community all want to improve.

We hope the rural women of Australia have access to the support services and care of their community on this day of reflection and remembrance.

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