



**Dominic Perrottet MP**  
Premier of New South Wales



## **World Prematurity Day 2021**

I am honoured to support to World Prematurity Day 2021.

Welcoming a new baby into the world is one of the most exhilarating and life-changing experiences any of us encounter, but also one of the most challenging. It's a time of wonder and unknowns, and while often joyful and exciting, it can also feel uncertain and, at times, overwhelming.

All new parents need support, but that support is especially important for mums and dads whose precious baby has come into the world prematurely, with all the physical, mental and emotional challenges that involves.

Nearly 7,000 babies are born prematurely in NSW each year. Ground-breaking advances in neonatal health care, including Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Special Care Nurseries, are vastly improving the long-term outcomes of these littlest Australians, yet nearly 10 per cent will still lose their fight for life.

This is a challenge we can all help to overcome. The NSW Government is proud to continue its support for research and better resources in neonatal care, and earlier this year, we introduced paid pre-term birth leave in the NSW public service, for mothers of premature babies and their partners from the date of early birth, so parents don't have the added worry of financial or work pressure at such a life-changing time.

It's a small contribution to the broader goal at the heart of World Prematurity Day: raising awareness and improving support for premature babies and their families, to give the most vulnerable little members of our community the best chance at thriving, while ensuring their parents can experience the joys of parenthood in the most difficult circumstances.

This is an effort in which we can all play a part, so on 17 November, I encourage everyone to lend their support to World Prematurity Day 2021.

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