



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

WORLD PREMATUREITY DAY 2021

On this World Prematurity Day, I join in honouring the families, medical staff and support workers who care for pre-term babies.

Each year in Australia, more than 48,000 babies require specialist care, and more than 27,000 are born prematurely. Their health needs are complex and multilayered, often with lifelong consequences.

I commend Miracle Babies Foundation for its work on programs and resources supporting families. I thank the foundation and its supporters, for their kindness, care and dedication.

I also pay tribute to the medical staff who work around the clock in Neonatal Intensive Care Units around Australia. I am in awe of what you give every day.

For so many families, the Foundation is a lifeline during the tempest of fear and uncertainty.

Miracle Babies *Nurture* Program provides the practical support and advice families need to be confident carers and advocates for their children. The Foundation works in partnership with families and medical teams. It provides strength and support where it is needed.

President Obama often described parenthood as “like having your heart walking around outside your body”. As a parent I understand that sentiment. Even in the best of times, the birth of a child can be a time of stress and uncertainty. For the parents of newborn children, it is a time of tremendous fear and stress. The work of Miracle Babies is vital in helping families navigate these fears and uncertainties.

On World Prematurity Day, I give thanks for the work of all in caring for babies born too soon, and I pay tribute to all who care for Australian babies born too soon.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison'.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia

17 November 2021