



Report

Stillbirth Research and Education

4 December 2018

Chapter 4, pages 51-52

Successful international models

4.79 Several witnesses commented on the success of overseas models of stillbirth data reporting and collection, with evidence indicating that they had contributed to a significant reduction in the rate of stillbirth in those countries.

4.80 Professor Jason Gardosi, Director of the Perinatal Institute in the UK, reported on the success of a stillbirth prevention program developed by the Perinatal Institute using detailed case reviews and analysis of regional maternity data.

4.81 The GAP program, which has now been implemented in over 80 per cent of UK hospitals in the National Health Service, is a comprehensive training and audit program drawing on data collected in relation to the mother's height, weight, previous pregnancies and ethnicity to produce a core dataset of maternal characteristics. It also enables the generation of customised antenatal growth charts (GROW) to assist obstetricians, midwives and ultrasonographers in undertaking antenatal assessments, and is credited with reducing stillbirth rates by 23 per cent over the last six years.⁷⁹

4.82 The Perinatal Institute has also been commissioned to roll out the GAP program in New Zealand, and it has produced an Australian version. The customised GROW chart and calculators are already being used by clinicians in some Australian states and territories, with evidence suggesting that they are helping to improve antenatal identification of babies at risk due to fetal growth restriction. The Perinatal Institute (UK) concluded that:

...a significant and sustained impact on stillbirth prevention will require a co-ordinated, intensive yet affordable programme, modelled on experience elsewhere and adapted to Australian circumstances.⁸⁰

79 Professor Jason Gardosi, Director, Perinatal Institute, United Kingdom (UK), *Committee Hansard*, 7 September 2018, p. 70; Perinatal Institute (UK), *Submission 257*, p. 2.

80 Perinatal Institute (UK), *Submission 257*, p. 2.