

Media Release

Family Picnic for Preterm Birth Prevention

07 November 2013

Preterm birth is the largest cause of childhood death and disability in young children in our society. Nearly 10 per cent of all Western Australian babies are born preterm.

This will hopefully soon be a statistic of the past with Professor John Newnham and his team at the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) working to discover how to prevent preterm birth.

"With over 2,500 babies born pre-term in WA each year, it is a priority for WIRF to discover why this happens and how we can prevent it," Prof Newnham said.

"The Foundation (based at King Edward Memorial Hospital - KEMH) plans to launch a campaign in the New Year which will help build Australia's dedicated first Preterm Birth Initiative. The initiative aims to bring together clinical expertise, education and ground breaking research into why babies are born too soon. We have made some significant discoveries, but there is still much left to discover."

On Sunday November 17th, the Women and Infants Research Foundation will be hosting a Family Picnic in the Park at Matilda Bay Reserve, to raise awareness of premature birth. The day coincides with World Premature Baby Day.

Having been personally affected by preterm birth with both of their children, Katie & David Galloway will be attending the Family Picnic.

"Sophie and Amelia were both born at 28 weeks of pregnancy. Sophie was 840 grams and Amelia 944 grams. They both spent months in The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at KEMH," Katie said.

The Picnic will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm and include a sausage sizzle, face painting, raffles, displays and children's entertainment, The LuLus. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://wirf.com.au/familypicnic2013> for \$5 per person (children under 18 months are free), and this includes a sausage sizzle.

The Family Picnic is sponsored and supported by Beyond Bank Australia, Medela, Perth Zoo, Regal Theatre, Buggy Buddy's and Matilda Bay Tea Rooms.

"WIRF's research will one day prevent other mothers going through what my family has, twice! This is just such an important initiative, and one worth supporting," Katie said.

EVENT DETAILS

Address Matilda Bay Reserve, Hackett Drive, Crawley, WA 6009

Date/Time Sunday 17th November, 2013 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Costs Tickets \$5 each (children under 18 months are FREE)
book tickets online at <http://wirf.com.au/familypicnic2013>



women & infants
research foundation
Western Australia

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Sophie (3) and Amelia (11 months) Galloway

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