

# Media Release

## WIRF unveils its 2016 Annual Report

Monday, 21 November 2016

The yearly report card for Western Australia's leading independent research institution dedicated to improving women's and infants' health has been released.

Unveiled at its recent AGM, the Women and Infants Research Foundation's (WIRF) 2016 Annual Report revisits the Foundation's 40th anniversary year and includes research highlights and case studies outlining measurable and sustainable improvements to a number of areas of women's, infants', and reproductive health.

The Annual Report includes the following highlights:

- Having an international team of researchers led by WIRF's Associate Professor Matt Kemp, undertake pre-clinical trials to optimise steroid treatment to rapidly mature the fetus in cases of impending preterm birth. This team's findings to date are extremely promising, and have generated significant international interest.
- Travelling more than 13,000 kms across Western Australia to provide in-service education to more than 500 health care workers in their own work environments as part of the Western Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Initiative.
- In partnership with The West Australian, publishing the latest edition of 'The Whole Nine Months' educational liftout, which explains how our preterm birth prevention initiative aims to improve maternal and child health by lowering the rate of preterm birth across our state.

An online version of the 2016 Annual Report is available at:

[http://wirf.com.au/~wirfcoma/sites/default/files/wirf\\_ar\\_2016\\_web.pdf](http://wirf.com.au/~wirfcoma/sites/default/files/wirf_ar_2016_web.pdf)

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**Background:** The Women and Infants Research Foundation is Western Australia's leading independent research institution dedicated to improving the health of women, infants and reproductive health. We have a proud 40-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement centred on the eradication of disease and the reduction of illness in women of all ages and babies.