



women & infants  
research foundation

# Media Release

## WA community unite for Little Angels Gala

Wednesday, 20 February 2019

A highly anticipated inclusion to Western Australia's calendar of events is set to celebrate the achievements of one of the State's leading research organisations and the journey of a family that has been touched by their work to prevent preterm birth.

Presented by Vera Coleski and the Women and Infants Research Foundation, The Little Angles Gala Ball, will showcase exquisite food and wine unique to our region all in the name of supporting WIRF's world-leading research into preterm birth prevention.

MC, Rayne Embley, will join private industry, key health representatives, and WA's philanthropic community, for the event which will shine a light on Vera's journey of infant loss with her first son, Andrej, and her ongoing efforts to make preterm birth a thing of the past.

WIRF Ambassador, retired Australian Test Cricketer, and father of two very premature babies, Mike Hussey said the event would provide an opportunity to share stories of preterm birth and reflect on the amazing work happening right here in WA.

"Vera's story is amazingly powerful and her commitment to raising awareness and support for preterm birth should be applauded," he said.

"It's amazing that a WA organisation like WIRF is leading the world in preterm birth prevention and making such a meaningful impact to so many.

"Amy and I know exactly how tough it is for families to go through a preterm birth experience. This event is a critical forum to raise awareness and support the amazing research being done by WIRF which is ultimately saving the lives of Western Australian women and their babies."

WIRF Chief Scientific Director, Professor John Newnham pointed to the event as being a key platform to reflect on the significant work that has already been done and to strengthen our resolve to improve areas of women's and newborns' health which matter most to our community.

"Preterm birth remains the single, largest cause of death and disability in children under five years of age in the developed world. In WA alone, more than 2900 babies are born premature each year. However, we now know that in many cases it is preventable," Professor Newnham said.

"Major improvements in the field of preterm birth prevention cannot be achieved without the generous support of the WA community."

The Little Angles Gala Ball, to be held on Saturday, 9 March at the Westin, promises to be a special evening of fine dining which will feature entertainment provided by FELIX the Band. An array of highly sought after prizes and experiences are also available on the night.

For tickets and more information visit: [www.wirf.com.au/littleangelsgala](http://www.wirf.com.au/littleangelsgala)

**ENDS**



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**Media opportunity:** WIRF Ambassador, Mike Hussey, is available for follow up media comment on request.

## **Background:**

### **The Women and Infants Research Foundation**

The Women and Infants Research Foundation is one of Western Australia's leading independent research institution dedicated to improving the health of women, infants and reproductive health.

For more than 40 years our research and programs have directly contributed to a number of improved clinical practices and health outcomes in areas of critical need.