

Plea to hospitals to cut stillbirth rate

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EXPERTS are calling on Australian hospitals to urgently implement stillbirth guidelines as new figures show 60 per cent of womb deaths are unexplained.

New research reveals 34 per cent of stillbirths delivered at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital from November 2005 to March 2008 were unexplained. **Stillbirth Foundation** Australia founder Emma McLeod said more research and awareness was desperately needed in the area of stillbirth, with six babies in Australia stillborn every day.

That is 10 times the number of children who die from SIDS and almost 500 more than the number of Australians who die of skin cancer each year.

Ms McLeod said the cause was 20 years behind SIDS in terms of awareness levels.

She said national guidelines aimed at improving the process of investigation and prevention were not being followed in most cases.

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