

MEDIA RELEASE

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Member for Murchison Ruth Forrest is fully supportive of and behind the 2006 SIDS & KIDS Red Nose Day and is a Red Nose Day Super MP Hero. "It is important to remember the huge impact Red Nose Day has had over the last 19 years in supporting, raising awareness and funds for research into SIDS and support of families affected by this tragedy" Ms Forrest stated.

"Research and education programs over the last 20 years, the time I have worked as a midwife, have seen a 90% reduction in the incidence in SIDS, saving the lives of a significant number of babies whose birth I may well have attended" Ms Forrest said.

"It is significant that SIDS and Kids are now looking at funding to research other causes of infant deaths, particularly stillbirth, an tragedy close to all midwives hearts" Ms Forrest stated.

"The support provided to grieving families who are victims of SIDS by SIDS and KIDS, is well placed to support families who experience the tragedy of stillbirth" Ms Forrest stated.

One area that should be targeted to enhance the efficacy of any programs to reduce the risk of SIDS and Stillbirth, is in reducing the incidence of pregnant women, their partners and new parents who smoke.

"Evidence clearly demonstrates smoking increases the risk of both SIDS and stillbirth, but we don't seem to be getting the message effectively to the childbearing women and their families within our community" Ms Forrest stated.

"Red Nose Day is the ideal time for the Government to commit to ongoing support and advancement of rigorous anti-smoking legislation as well as support and promotion of smoking cessation education and programs. This will further protect these vulnerable and innocent members of our society, whilst improving health outcomes for the parents and families of these children" Ms Forrest said.

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For further information please telephone 0419 879 524

