



# Hon Nick Goiran MLC

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Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
By email: [env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Chairman,

## **PETITION NO. 032 – INDUCED PREMATURE DEATHS**

I refer to the abovementioned petition which I tabled on 1 November 2017.

I note that the Committee has published my submission dated 7 December 2017 and also that of the Principal Petitioner, Mr Randall, dated 8 December 2017. I thank the Committee for this.

I discovered today, upon perusing the Committee's webpage, that the Committee has also published a response from the Minister for Health dated 9 April 2018. I have conferred with the Principal Petitioner about this so-called response and he has authorised me to express our distress that this grave matter about the death of 27 Western Australian children which attracted the signatures of more than 7000 Western Australians has resulted in nothing more than five short paragraphs from the Minister.

We already know that "... there is no record of medical intervention or resuscitation in these cases"<sup>1</sup>. Zero medical treatment for 27 Western Australian children deserves a full inquiry not a tokenistic response from the Minister. Indeed it appears to me that the Minister has not understood the matter given his response is limited to "governance processes" and "legal requirements" for abortion.

I take this opportunity to emphasise to the committee that this petition is not about the governance processes or legal requirements for abortion in our State. Rather this petition is about:

1. the standard of care for premature babies in our State;
2. the fact that at least 27 premature babies did not receive the same level of care as in normally provided in our State;

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<sup>1</sup> Question on Notice 5, 40th Parliament, Parliament of Western Australia, Answered on 15 June 2017

3. the fact that the Department of Child Protection was never notified about these 27 Western Australian children at risk;
4. the fact that these 27 Western Australian babies were left to die;
5. the fact that none of these 27 deaths were reported by the Department of Health to the Coroner; and
6. the fact that the Ombudsman has said he has no jurisdiction to inquire into these child deaths.

Despite these circumstances the Minister's response to the Committee is that he "will not be recommending a review on the process or an inquiry into individual cases". This is precisely why an inquiry by this Committee is needed.

The Principal Petitioner and I urge the Committee to establish an inquiry into this grave matter and are willing to make ourselves available to attend before the Committee at short-notice to make further oral submissions about this matter.

We would be grateful if the Committee would agree to make this letter public as we both receive regular enquiries from those whom have signed the petition asking what contribution we have made to seeing this distressing matter addressed.

Yours faithfully,



**Hon Nick Goiran MLC**  
**Member for the South Metropolitan Region**

Cc Dwight Randall (by email: [lifemin@people.net.au](mailto:lifemin@people.net.au))