

News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney General
Minister for Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Business Services and Consumers

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Commemorative certificates now available for still-born babies

Attorney General John Rau says that women who have suffered an early loss of pregnancy will now be able to get a certificate commemorating their loss.

The change is being introduced because under current birth registration laws, for a child that was still-born to be registered it must have reached at least 20 weeks gestation and be 400 grams.

“I am aware of the loss and grieving that mothers of early term still-born children can experience, and currently, they can not obtain a certificate,” Mr Rau said.

“That is why I have decided to introduce a Commemorative Certificate even for a pregnancy that falls outside of the 20 week / 400 gram definition.

“These certificates will be available from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages at no charge.

“The mother’s application must be accompanied by a letter from a health professional (medical practitioner, midwife or nurse) attesting to the early loss of pregnancy.

“There will be no requirement for the stillbirth falling outside the existing 20 week / 400 gram definition to be notified to the Registrar, and the certificate will have no legal status.

“Plain or commemorative certificates will be made available to any mother who has suffered an early loss of pregnancy, even if it’s been in the past, as long as they have the appropriate letter from health professional.

“This decision has been made following extensive consultation with medical professionals.”

For more information about the certificates, visit www.cbs.sa.gov.au/wcm/births-deaths-marriages-2