##### Thursday, 7th May 2018

##### Review of deaths of ACT children and young people identifies ongoing patterns

##### The ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee’s sixth annual report was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on Wednesday by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Rachel Stephen-Smith.

##### Committee Chair, Ms Margaret Carmody said “the report is based on examinations of deaths of children and young people aged up to 18, over five years including 2017”.

##### “The Committee’s role is to help reduce preventable deaths of children and young people in the ACT by reviewing all deaths of children and young people that occur in the ACT, as well as those deaths of ACT children and young people that occur outside of the ACT.

##### “Committee members bring experience in diverse areas including paediatrics, education, social work, child safety products and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.”

##### The 2017 Annual Report examines the deaths of 159 children and young people in the ACT in the five-year period between January 2013 and December 2017. The majority of deaths were attributed to medical causes and extreme prematurity. The report highlights that younger children are the most vulnerable. Seventy per cent of the total number of deaths were children under one year of age.

##### “Of the 159 deaths, 36 were of children and young people who did not normally reside in the ACT,

##### 11 per cent were young people aged 15-17 years and 3.8 per cent were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children or young people.”

Ms Carmody said that “the whole community has a role to play to support children and young people, and I would encourage the ACT community to consider how they will make children and young people a priority.”

The death of every child or young person is a tragedy and the Committee will continue to work at reducing the number of preventable deaths in the ACT. The Committee highlights the importance of accessing antenatal care, safe sleeping, locking pool gates, and keeping choking hazards such as small batteries out of reach of young children. The Committee will continue to identify areas that can be improved to avoid preventable deaths” Ms Carmody said

The annual report is on the Committee’s website at [www.childdeathcommittee.act.gov.au](http://www.childdeathcommittee.act.gov.au).