



**Stillbirth
Foundation**
Australia



A GUIDE TO PARTNERING WITH
**Bereaved Parents in
Pregnancy and Baby Loss
Research**



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stillbirthcre.org.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which this work was developed and conducted, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We recognise the ongoing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country, culture and community, and acknowledge the importance of culturally safe and responsive approaches when engaging in research relating to Sorry Business, particularly pregnancy and baby loss.



Right: 'Protection', created by Leona McGrath for use across the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth programs of work.

Recognition of Lived Experience



We honour the babies who have died during pregnancy or shortly after birth, and acknowledge the profound and lasting impact of these losses on parents, families and communities.

This guide has been shaped through partnership with bereaved parents whose lived experience has informed its development, direction and intent. Their knowledge, insight and leadership are central to this work.

A full list of acknowledgements is provided at the end of this document.

Left: The Ginkgo Leaf, created by Hannah Fitzpatrick – bereaved mother, midwife and member of the Bereaved Parent Advocacy Committee.

Foreword

I come to this work as a bereaved mother and as the Parent Engagement Lead at the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth (Stillbirth CRE), through Project Engage. These roles are not separate for me. They overlap every day, and this guide sits in that space between lived experience and research practice.

Like many parents involved in this work, my son's short life continues to shape why I do what I do. This guide exists because of parents who continue to show up, often only shortly after their own loss, with insight, determination, and a clear desire to see care improve for the families who will unfortunately come after them.

Over many years, the Stillbirth CRE has worked alongside bereaved parents to build an approach to parent partnership that goes beyond consultation. Through Project Engage, parents have helped set research priorities, contributed to study design, strengthened interpretation, and shaped education, translation, and policy. This work has been sustained because parents are not peripheral to research. They are capable, thoughtful partners whose contributions genuinely matter.

Pregnancy and baby loss research also carries particular ethical and relational responsibilities. Generic consumer engagement guidance does not always reflect the realities of bereavement, or the assumptions that still exist about bereaved parents as fragile, emotive or difficult to engage. Parents involved in this work are driven by a strong sense of purpose and a desire for our babies' lives to mean something. We want change; and to achieve this we ask not for protection, but respect, honesty, and to be treated as partners in the process.

This guide supports researchers to partner with bereaved parents in ways that are intentional, ethical and accountable. Effective partnership requires clarity about decision-making, shared influence, and defined expectations. Research in this space has direct consequences for families and must be conducted with integrity, transparency and respect.

This guide supports thoughtful, meaningful collaboration with bereaved parents and contributes to research that genuinely serves families.

Melissa Malivoire
Parent Engagement Lead, Project Engage
NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth



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Bereaved parents bring expertise grounded in lived experience of care systems, language, decision-making and grief. Their involvement ensures that research questions are relevant, methods are respectful, and outcomes reflect what matters to families and communities.

This guide has been developed through Project Engage and the Bereaved Parent Advocacy Committee (BPAC), drawing on national consultation, lived experience leadership and collaboration with researchers across the Stillbirth CRE network.

It complements [Getting Involved in Stillbirth Research: A Guide for Bereaved Parents](#), which provides information and support for parents who choose to contribute to research.

This guide also responds to the broader national context in which bereaved-parent partnership is increasingly expected but not always well supported in practice. While national strategies and consumer engagement frameworks emphasise the importance of lived-experience involvement, pregnancy and baby loss research presents unique ethical, emotional and relational considerations that are not consistently addressed by general guidance.

Drawing on sustained partnership through the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth (Stillbirth CRE), this guide operationalises national expectations into practical, context-specific approaches. The development of this guide was led by the Stillbirth CRE and co-funded by Stillbirth Foundation Australia.





I want to be part of a like-minded group who want to participate in research to bring awareness and make resources known for those going through this and to make change.

- Bereaved Parent, Project Engage

This guide provides practical direction for partnering with bereaved parents in pregnancy and baby loss research. It is designed to support researchers, institutions, teams and parent partners to work together in ways that are safe, respectful and meaningful.

This guide:

- reflects insights from bereaved parents, researchers and national consultation processes
- is designed for varied research settings, disciplines and project types
- builds on existing national consumer engagement standards
- centres bereaved parents as experts in lived experience
- acknowledges variation in organisational engagement maturity
- promotes consistent, high-quality partnership practice

The Stillbirth CRE demonstrates how these principles are embedded within a national research program.

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Why bereaved-parent partnerships are different

Bereaved parents bring lived experience, insight, and commitment that strengthen research relevance, ethics, and impact. Many engage not despite their loss, but because of it, with clarity of purpose and a strong desire to improve care for future families.

Bereaved parents are not a vulnerable group by default; vulnerability is contextual, not inherent. Bereavement may involve emotional complexity and changing readiness to engage, reflecting the enduring significance of a child and their life rather than weakness.

Effective partnership recognises both capacity and care, grounded in mutual respect rather than protection.

Bereaved parents contribute:

- deep understanding of care pathways and systems
- insight into language, practice, and priorities that matter to families
- ethical judgement shaped by lived experience
- resilience, advocacy, and long-term commitment to change
- leadership in shaping research questions, interpretation, and translation


In practice, this requires:

- sensitivity to grief without assuming fragility
- flexibility, transparency, and clear communication
- space to step in or out of involvement
- trauma-aware approaches that maintain agency
- appropriate remuneration and cultural safety

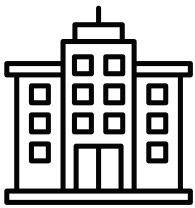
This approach avoids both over-protection and disregard, recognising bereaved parents as capable partners whose strengths are central to meaningful research collaboration.

Language signals power.

Language in this space holds emotional, cultural and relational significance. The following commitments support sensitivity, clarity and psychological safety.

 DO	 AVOID	WHY IT MATTERS
Use 'bereaved parent' or parent-partner	Generic terms such as 'consumer'	Signals specificity and respect
Use the baby's name, or words such as 'baby' or 'child', where preferred	Clinical or impersonal terms such as 'fetus'	Affirms identity and dignity
Acknowledge lived experience as expertise	Treating personal stories as anecdotal or secondary	Recognises contribution beyond narrative
Use plain language alongside technical terms	Excessive jargon or statistics that overshadow lived experience	Maintains accessibility and inclusion
Avoid umbrella terms for pregnancy loss unless requested	Broad, unspecific language that collapses different experiences	Acknowledges differences in experience
Provide advance notice of graphic or confronting clinical content	Unexpected exposure to clinical content (e.g., post-mortem images) or sensitive material	Supports informed participation without framing babies or parents as 'triggers'
Avoid minimising language or euphemisms	Language that reduces the significance of the loss	Signals seriousness and care

Partnerships work best when everyone understands where influence sits, how decisions are made, and how roles complement one another. Some forms of power that can shape research partnerships include:



Institutional

*team hierarchy,
funding
responsibilities,
ethics processes*



Lived experience

*Insight, context and
expertise held by
bereaved parents*



Procedural

*Who sets agendas,
timelines and
expectations*

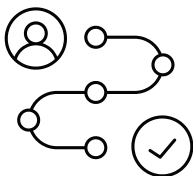


Situational

*Emotional readiness,
workload, cultural or
family
responsibilities*

Explicit recognition of these forms of power enables intentional and equitable partnership.

Good practice includes:



*being explicit about
decision-making
processes*

*sharing information
openly and in plain
language*







*reflecting on
assumptions, blind
spots or unspoken
expectations*

*inviting lived
experience input
deliberately, not
incidentally*



*maintaining
transparency to
prevent tokenism*

Indicators of healthy power-sharing in parent-researcher partnerships

-  Partners report being able to engage openly and raise concerns without consequence.
-  Lived experience expertise is explicitly acknowledged in meeting records, publications and decision-making.
-  Parent input is reflected in documented research decisions.
-  Roles, expectations and influence are clearly articulated and revisited over time.
-  Disagreements are addressed through agreed pathways rather than avoided.
-  Partners can pause, adjust or renegotiate involvement without penalty.

Core principles

Co-designed with bereaved parents

These principles reflect the values, expectations and lived experience shared by parents, researchers, clinicians and policy-makers through Project Engage and the Bereaved Parent Advocacy Committee (BPAC). They outline how respectful, safe and meaningful collaboration is achieved in practice.





Every great partnership
begins with respect – and
ends with legacy.

- Bereaved Parent, Project Engage

Bereaved-parent partnership is embedded through formal governance structures, not informal practice alone.

The following example illustrates how partnership can be integrated across strategy, research programs, operational systems and evaluation within a national research centre.

Example in practice: Stillbirth CRE model

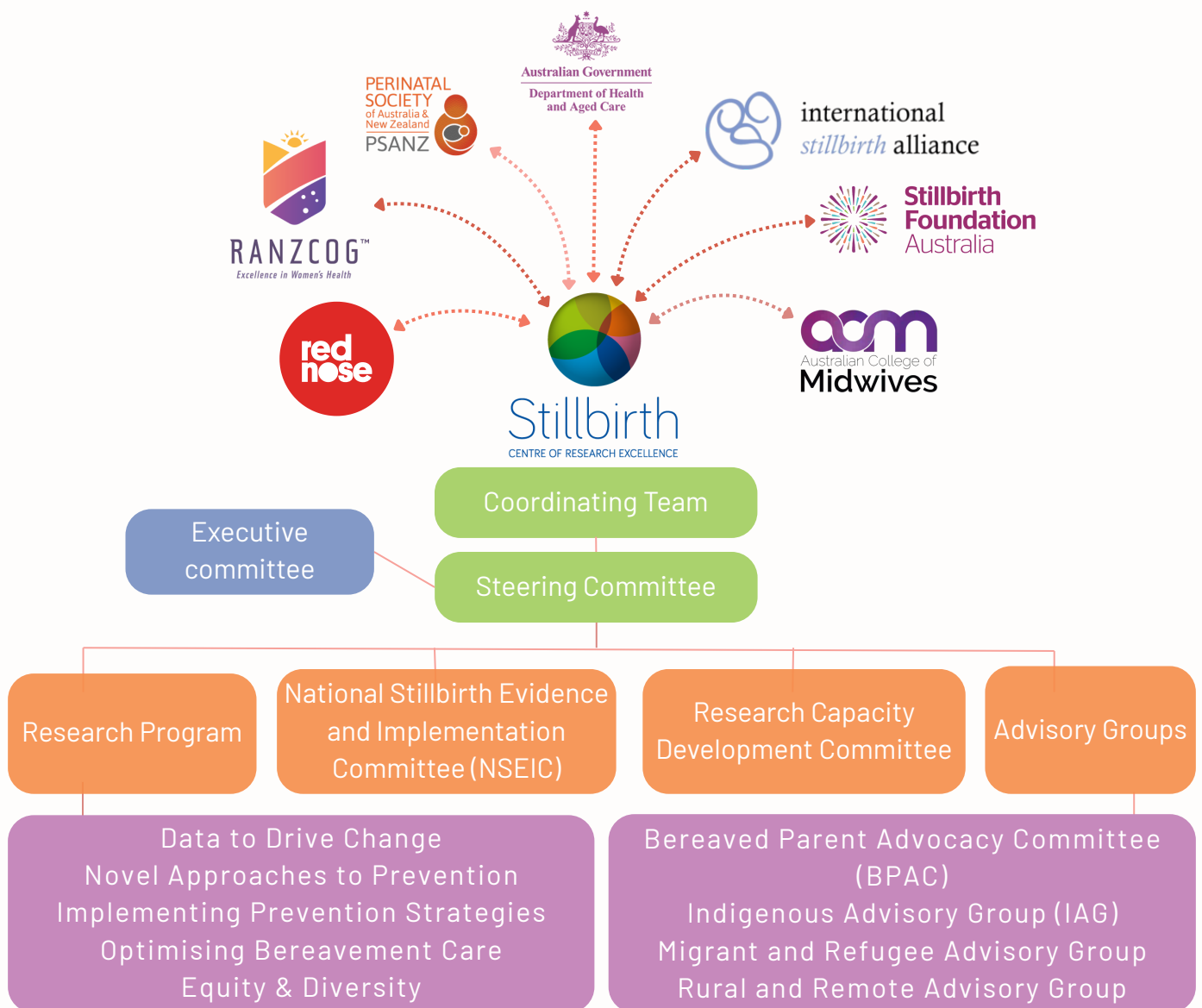
Governance level	Focus	Key mechanisms
Strategic direction	National coordination and oversight	Coordinating Team; Steering Committee; Executive Committee; International Stillbirth Alliance (ISA); advisory groups
National advocacy and leadership	National parent network and voice	Research Involvement Registry; Annual BPAC parent-researcher-clinician & policymaker workshop; PSANZ-LEAN*; National partners
Research programs	Parent partnership embedded in program design and delivery	Program leadership teams; project advisory roles; ethics applications; onboarding tools; partnership agreements
Organisational integration	Partnership across research, policy, education and communications	Standing committees; registry governance; remuneration frameworks; Project Engage processes
Knowledge translation	Accessible and parent-informed dissemination	Website; newsletters; events; co-designed publications; tailored communications

*Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand - Lived Experience Advisory Network (PSANZ-LEAN)

Linkages and alignment

Effective partnership extends beyond individual projects. It requires alignment across professional bodies, advocacy networks, policy forums and quality assurance systems. These linkages strengthen influence, reduce duplication and ensure lived experience informs research, policy and implementation environments.

In pregnancy and baby loss research, partnership extends beyond individual projects. The diagram below illustrates how bereaved-parent expertise connects research, service providers, clinical standards and advocacy systems, strengthening accountability and improving translation into practice.



09 The partnership pathway

Effective partnership does not occur incidentally. It requires deliberate planning, active engagement, ongoing reflection and a considered close.

This pathway sets out the minimum stages that should be in place wherever bereaved parents are involved in research.





Having a clear process made it easier to know what I was saying yes to. I knew what I was being asked to do, how my input would be used, and that it was taken seriously.

- Bereaved Parent, Project Engage

10 Partnering with bereaved parents

Engaging bereaved parents in research requires structure, clarity and ethical safeguards. The Stillbirth CRE provides one structured pathway to support safe and equitable involvement. Researchers may also establish equivalent governance processes within their own institutions.

This pathway includes formal request and review, structured introduction, and documented agreements outlining roles, supports and recognition.

Equivalent governance processes must provide comparable transparency, role clarity, remuneration and influence.

STEP 01 SUBMIT REQUEST

Researcher outlines proposed role, expectations and level of engagement.

STEP 02 GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Request is reviewed for alignment with engagement standards and feasibility.

STEP 03 OPPORTUNITY SHARING

Opportunities are shared with parents based on identified interests and skills.

STEP 04 INTRODUCTION + DISCUSSION

Parents and researchers discuss scope, expectations and recognition.

STEP 05 FORMALISE AGREEMENT

Roles, supports, recognition and remuneration are documented prior to commencement.

This structured pathway is one mechanism to support ethical and transparent partnership. Equivalent governance processes should be in place wherever bereaved parents are involved in research.

Partnership requires structural resourcing



When partnership is under-resourced

Limited diversity

Token consultation

Same small group of parents

Emotional labour without support

Research questions missing lived priorities

Burnout / fatigue



When partnership is properly resourced

Broader representation

Shared ownership

Diverse parent pipeline

Transparent remuneration processes

Research shaped by lived experience priorities

Sustained engagement

Resourcing determines who can participate – and whose voices are heard.

Budgeting for parent partnership

Bereaved-parent partnership requires deliberate resourcing. Parents should not be expected to contribute their time, expertise or emotional labour “in kind”.

Budgeting must account for both direct parent costs and the infrastructure required to support safe, high-quality engagement.

DIRECT PARENT COSTS

- Remuneration / honorariums
- Advisory and co-design roles
- Document review and workshops
- Committee sitting fees (where applicable)

PARTICIPATION COSTS

- Travel and accommodation (including interstate)
- Parking, mileage, taxis or rideshare
- Childcare, where required
- Reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

- Translation and interpretation
- Culturally specific support
- Auslan and other accessibility services
- Plain language editing

INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT

- Staff coordination and administration
- Onboarding and orientation sessions
- Briefing and debriefing processes
- Evaluation and reflection activities

Partnership cannot be sustained without structural support. These costs should be embedded in funding applications and project budgets from the outset.

Preparing for the first parent-partner meeting

The first meeting sets the tone for partnership. Preparation is the responsibility of the research team. Researchers must establish clarity about roles, influence, logistics and expectations before the meeting begins.

Before the meeting, ensure the following conditions are in place:

1

Purpose and influence are clear

- Clarify the stage of research
- Identify what decisions are open to influence
- Explain how the parent input will shape the project

2

Roles and expectations are defined

- Define anticipated contributions and time commitments
- Confirm remuneration and payment processes
- Clarify communication pathways and points of contact

3

Materials are shared in advance

- Circulate agenda and documents as early as possible
- Use plain language
- Provide advance notice of any sensitive or graphic material

4

Accessibility and support are considered

- Check preferred terminology and pronouns
- Identify access needs (e.g., interpretation, timing, format)
- Confirm options for adjusting pace or stepping back if needed

5

Administration processes are ready

- Ensure payment systems are in place
- Confirm how and when remuneration will be processed
- Schedule sufficient time for discussion

Sustained partnership requires ongoing attention to clarity, communication and equity. Partnership should not rely on individual goodwill or informal relationships.

Effective sustainment includes:

- Regular review of roles, influence and expectations
- Transparent communication about project changes or funding shifts
- Timely processing of remuneration and reimbursements
- Structured opportunities for feedback and reflection
- Clear pathways for pausing or concluding involvement
- Planned closure that acknowledges contribution and legacy

Partnership may evolve over time. Changes in capacity, interest or project direction should be addressed openly rather than assumed. Sustained engagement depends on predictable systems and accountable practice.

“Checking in” as a partnership practice...

creates space to adjust scope, renegotiate influence, and respond to emerging pressures. Regular check-ins are a core partnership mechanism. They create space to adjust scope, renegotiate influence and respond to emerging pressures.

Checking in does not need to be formal or lengthy. When done consistently and with genuine intent, it helps to build and maintain trust, supports emotional safety, and strengthens partnership over time.

Recognition, attribution and authorship

Recognition reflects influence, accountability and shared ownership in research. Bereaved parents contribute expertise, intellectual input and labour that must be acknowledged clearly and proportionately.

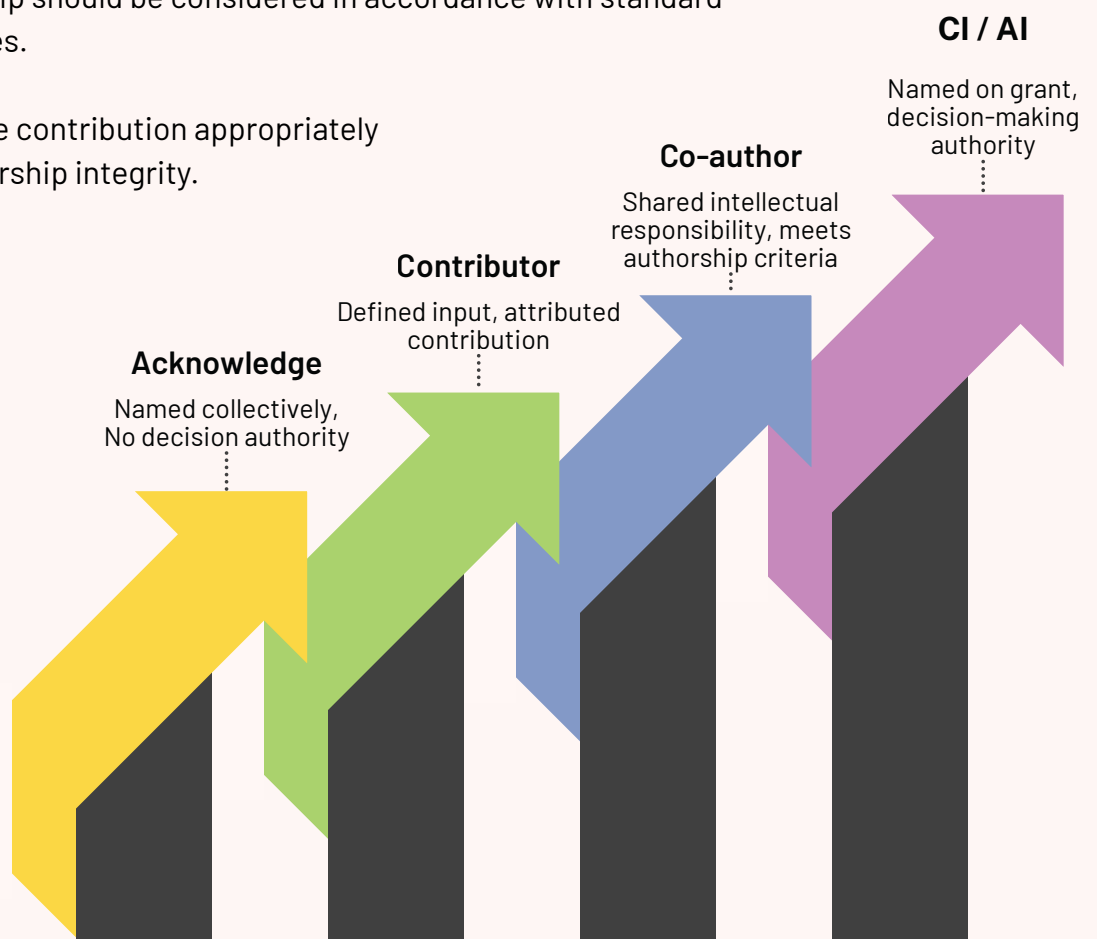
The appropriate level of recognition depends on the depth and nature of contribution. This should be discussed early and revisited as roles evolve.

Recognition may include:

- Acknowledgement in publications
- Co-authorship in line with accepted academic authorship criteria
- Named investigator status on grants
- Financial remuneration
- Public attribution in events and media

Where lived experience shapes research design, interpretation or intellectual direction, authorship should be considered in accordance with standard academic guidelines.

Failure to recognise contribution appropriately undermines partnership integrity.



Partnership Statements in Research Outputs

Parent partnership should be clearly acknowledged in research outputs, including presentations, reports, ethics submissions, publications and funding proposals. Partnership statements demonstrate transparency, honour lived experience and show how parent input shaped decisions.

Examples

<p>General acknowledgement</p>	<p><i>“We acknowledge the bereaved parents who contributed their lived experience to this study. Their insights shaped the development of the research question, interpretation of findings, and relevance of this work to families and communities.”</i></p>
<p>Specific areas of contribution</p>	<p><i>“We thank the bereaved parent partners who contributed to this research by reviewing study materials, advising on sensitive language and processes, and supporting the interpretation of results. Their contributions strengthened the cultural, emotional and practical relevance of this work.”</i></p>
<p>If parents prefer their baby to be named</p>	<p><i>“We honour [Baby’s name] and thank [Parent name(s)] for contributing their expertise and lived experience to this work. Their partnership helped shape the design and interpretation of this study.”</i></p>

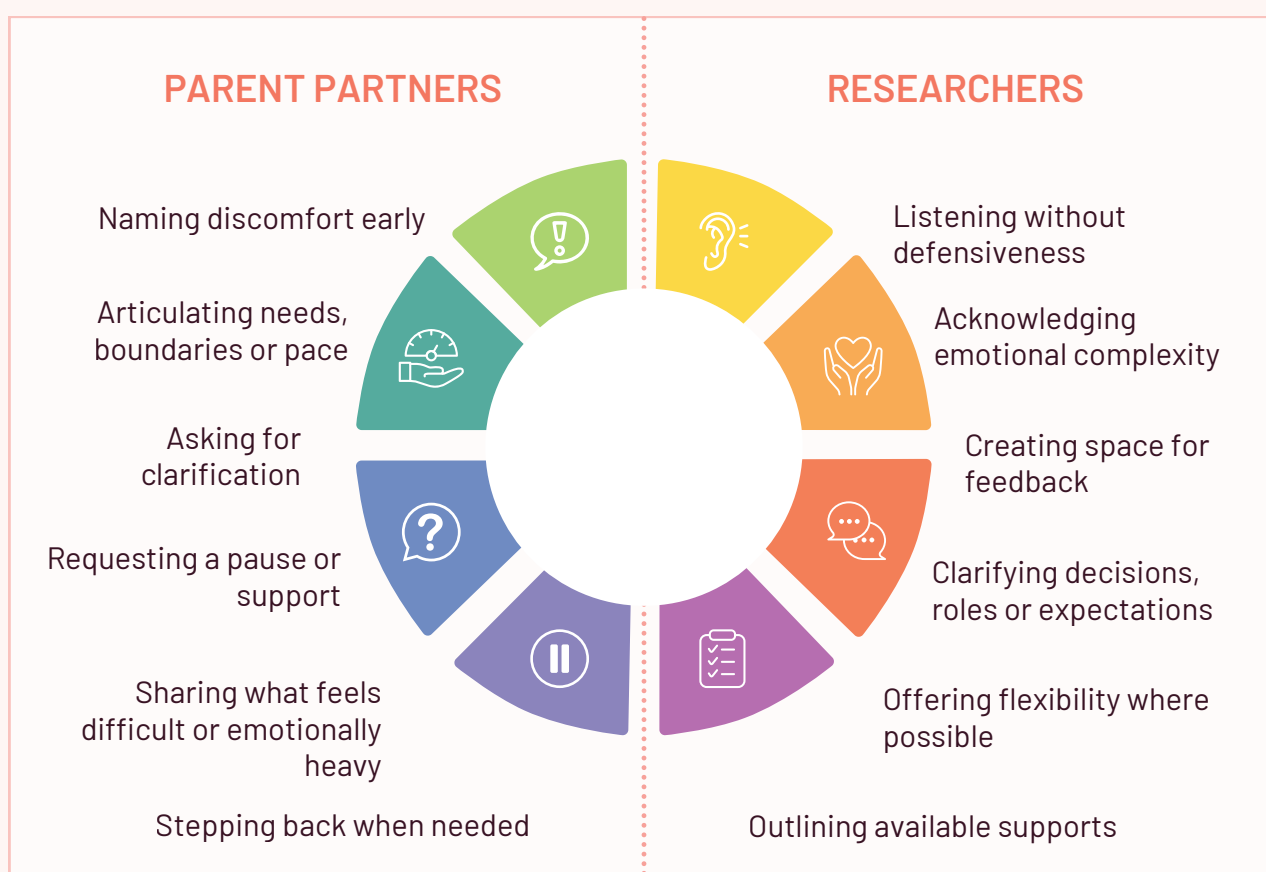
Note: Only include names when explicit consent has been given. Where names are used, ensure the spelling of parents’ and babies’ names is confirmed and recorded accurately, as this is an important aspect of respectful acknowledgement.

Navigating challenging moments together

Working in bereaved-parent partnership requires clarity of roles, consistent communication and emotional awareness. Even in strong collaborations, moments of tension arise. These moments usually reflect complexity within the partnership rather than failure by any individual.

Tension may emerge when expectations are unclear, timelines shift, decisions feel opaque, or emotional load is high. Capacity to engage may change over time. Supporting agency includes respecting when parents choose to pause, step back or renegotiate involvement.

The diagram below illustrates how tension sits within the shared relational space between parents and researchers. Both bring different pressures, responsibilities and influence.



Tensions should be addressed early through transparent communication. Concerns relating to safety, ethics or unresolved conflict should be escalated through institutional pathways and independent consumer-engagement organisations should be accessed for guidance (e.g., Health Consumers Queensland, Health Consumers NSW, National Health and Medical Research Council).

Monitoring progress is essential to ensure that bereaved-parent partnerships remain safe, meaningful and effective over time.

Partnership success is measured by the following indicators:

- representation: number and diversity of parents involved across Stillbirth CRE activities
- influence: evidence of parent input shaping study design, materials, decisions and outputs
- safety and satisfaction: feedback from parents and researchers about communication, support and emotional safety
- capacity building: participation in training, use of partnership tools and resources, and opportunities for parents to contribute to activities such as co-design, peer review and grant or funding applications (with interest and support)
- legacy: examples of ongoing involvement, acknowledgement of babies (with consent), and parent-led contributions after project close

These measures are gathered through a combination of regular check-ins, brief reflective conversations and structured feedback processes such as surveys or end-of-project reviews. Teams may use informal approaches (for example, verbal reflections at meetings) or more formal tools (such as parent feedback forms, researcher debriefs or evaluation templates), depending on the nature of the partnership and the level of involvement.

These measures were co-developed with bereaved parents and researchers and map directly to the Project Engage Program Logic model, which guides evaluation of safe, meaningful and sustained partnership.

Implementation and future direction

Implementing best practice in bereaved-parent partnership is an ongoing process that requires reflection, resourcing and adaptation. The Stillbirth CRE has established a strong foundation for this work, including an engaged Research Involvement Registry, co-designed principles and processes, and increasing capability among researchers and parent partners to work together safely and meaningfully. This has enabled consistent parent involvement across research design, governance, interpretation and translation.

Partnerships at scale introduce complexity. Variability in resourcing can affect consistency across projects, and balancing relational pace and emotional safety with research timelines continues to require careful judgement. Ongoing effort is also needed to strengthen representation across diverse cultural, geographic and family contexts.

Some challenges reflect the program's growth. The number of bereaved parents willing to contribute now exceeds available partnership opportunities, highlighting the need to further expand meaningful involvement across the research pipeline.

In response, practice continues to be strengthened through clearer onboarding and role clarity, more consistent communication and feedback, standardised recruitment and remuneration processes, and strengthened governance for parent involvement. Future priorities include earlier parent involvement in study development, greater opportunities for parent leadership where appropriate, improved diversity and representation, and stronger data capture to demonstrate impact.

This work will continue to evolve through an ongoing commitment to embedding bereaved-parent partnership as a sustainable and valued component of pregnancy and baby loss research.

Appendices

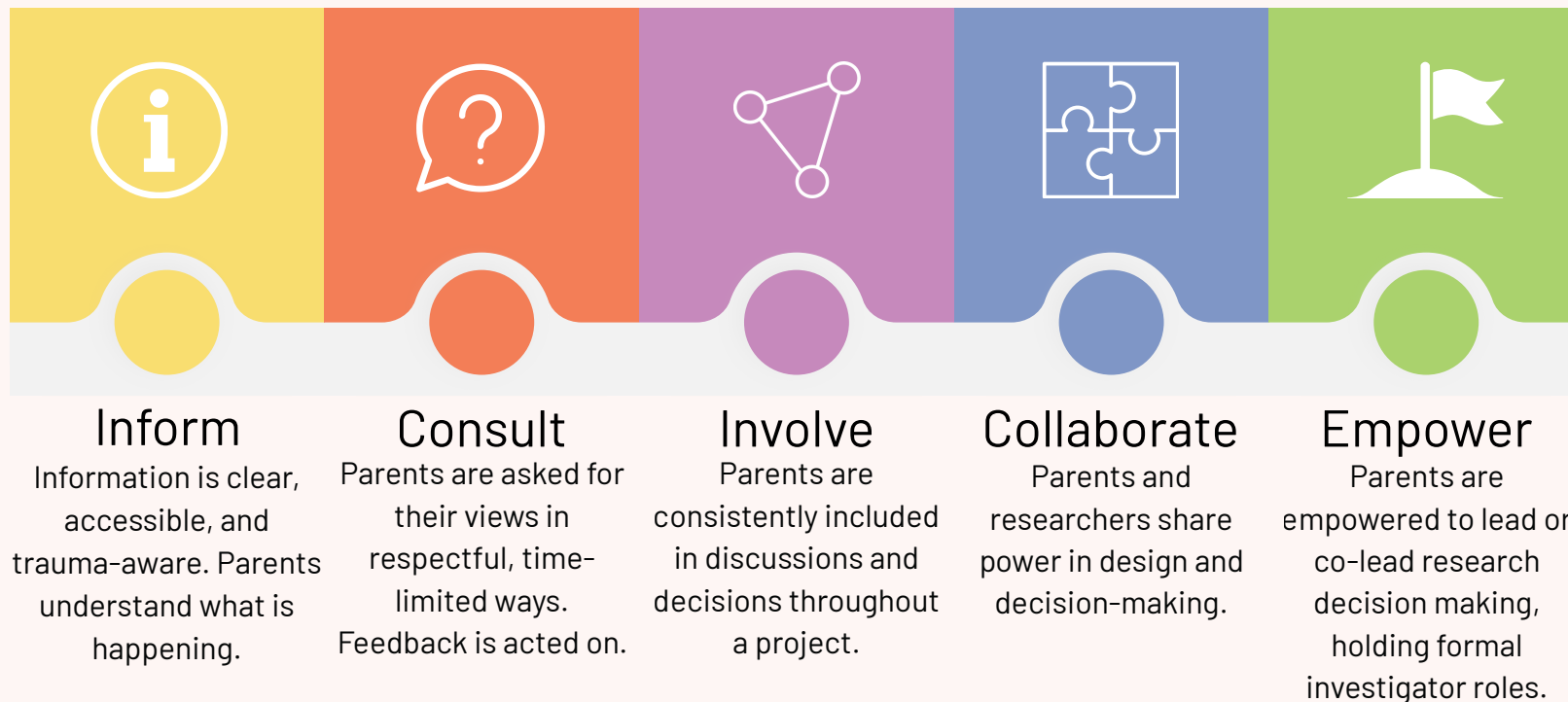
Appendix A

Spectrum of Engagement

Adapted from IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

Bereaved parents can contribute to research in many ways. Some may want to read newsletters or provide feedback once, while others may choose to co-design projects or become investigators. There is no single “right” way, and options may be different depending on the type of research.

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum is widely used across health research. Below, we adapt it to the pregnancy and baby loss context, showing what each level looks like for researchers and bereaved parents.



Core Principles for successful research partnerships with parents.
Co-designed with parent-partners of the Stillbirth CRE.

Core Principle	Consider your capacity, willingness, and commitment to apply these principles to establish and maintain research partnerships	Notes
Respect	Researchers and parents are valued as partners in practice	
	Recognise and honour all perspectives, do not dismiss anyone's experience	
	Allow time and space to build trust and share perspectives	
	Uphold ethical integrity and keep conversations confidential	
Communication	Communicate sensitively and clearly to meet the needs of parents	
	Recognise emotions and body language. Approach discussions with empathy.	
	Use appropriate language and mirror the parent (e.g. use the baby's name)	
	Ask parents about their experience and actively listen so that they feel valued	
	Share why you are asking a certain question and empower parents to decide if their perspective and experience is relevant at any point in time	
	Set clear expectations about how research works and how long it takes	
	Regularly stay connected, even if the correspondence is 'no updates'	
Knowledge Co-creation	Recognise lived experience as essential expertise	
	Actively involve parents in all research aspects including shaping research questions, project design, data collection, interpretation, and outputs	
	Maintain focus on research that prioritises parent views and benefits families	
	Highlight the influence parent contribution had on the research insights	
	Consider if the research findings make sense from the point of view of lived experience and academically. If not, why is there a disparity?	
	Embrace mutual learning which could be key to unlocking crucial insights	
Safety and Support	Enable growth, stronger partnerships, and psychological safety	
	Engage in reflective practice to better appreciate individual experiences	
	Actively address power differentials - uneasiness may come from both sides	
	Ensure everyone feels safe to provide honest feedback that is valued	
	Resolve any conflicts promptly, transparently and with mutual respect	
	Provide access to emotional support or counselling and refer to professional bereavement care services proactively (e.g. Red Nose)	
Equity and Diversity	Be aware of cultural, religious, or personal factors	
	Adapt approaches responsive to these diverse factors that influence grief	
	Actively engage diverse perspectives from the outset including different cultures, genders, ages, locations, and experiences	

The resources below support researchers and bereaved parent partners across the research partnership lifecycle. They are designed to promote safety, clarity and meaningful collaboration, and may be adapted to suit project needs and institutional processes.

Some tools are essential for ethical and trauma-aware practice. Others represent best practice and can be adapted to context.

Partnership Foundations	Purpose: To establish clarity, expectations and respectful collaboration.	
	1	Request for Bereaved Parent Involvement Used to request a Bereaved Parent-Partner from the Stillbirth CRE Research Involvement Registry.
	2	Opportunity Summary Used to advertise involvement opportunities. Includes role expectations, time commitment, scope, remuneration and support.
	3	Remuneration Guidance Simple rate structure (hourly, half-day, full-day) to ensure fair and trauma-aware compensation.
4	Parent Guide Companion document outlining what parent involvement may look like, rights, expectations and supports	
Orientation and Welcome	Purpose: To prepare parents and researchers for safe and supported partnership.	
	5	Welcome Letter Introduces the research team, expectations, support options and key contacts.
6	Support & Referral Pathways Clear pathways for emotional, psychological and cultural support throughout the partnership.	
Communication and Engagement	Purpose: To support clear communication, maintain psychological safety and enable meaningful collaboration.	
	7	Plain-Language Project Summary Template Ensures parents receive an accessible overview of the study.
8	Close-the-Loop Template Provides structured feedback to parents on how their input shaped decisions or materials.	
Closure and Legacy	Purpose: To ensure partnerships close safely, respectfully and with acknowledgement.	
	9	Project Closure Checklist Outlines key steps for ending a partnership safely and ethically.
Governance and Continuous Improvement	Purpose: To support evaluation, accountability and alignment with national guidance.	
	10	Core Principles Checklist Reflective tool based on the shared principles developed with bereaved parents.
11	Program Logic Model & Performance Indicators Provides the conceptual foundation for evaluating partnership impact.	

Acknowledgements

Bereaved Parent Advocacy Committee

We acknowledge the ongoing contribution of bereaved parents across Australia who have shared their insight, time and expertise to guide this work. Their lived experience is central to both the development and implementation of this guide.

We thank the Bereaved Parent Advocacy Committee (BPAC) – made up of bereaved parents, researchers, clinicians and community organisations – for its leadership and sustained collaboration throughout the development of this guide and the broader Parent Engagement in Research program.

- Brad Farrant - Kaya's dad
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- Emily Judd - Jack Waldron's mum
- Emma Porter - Conor's mum and Clinical Consultant, Stillbirth CRE
- Hannah Fitzpatrick - Olive's mum
- Jules Mallia - Willow's mum
- Kelly Merchant - Aimee's mum and Support Services Manager, Bears of Hope
- Kiralee Innes - James' mum
- Kirstin Tindal - Aurora's mum
- Kylie Stewart - mum to Alexander Hamish
- Megan Warren - Alex's mum
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- Monique Lumley - Abbey's mum
- Rachel Hill - Tommy's mum
- Rebecca Leonard (Bears of Hope)
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- Sarah Lawrence - Harry's mum
- Sarah-Jade Matheson - Aksel's mum
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- Sophie Hickingbotham - Baby Reggie's mumma
- Steph Chaumont - Ivy's mum
- Till Heike - Claudia's mum
- Valerie Ah Chee (Indigenous Research Midwife, Stillbirth CRE)
- Prof Vicki Flenady (Co-Director, Stillbirth CRE)



Bereaved parent-partners and advocates, researchers, clinicians and policymakers at the BPAC Workshop in Brisbane (August 2025).

Professional Partners and Collaborators

We are grateful for the support of our professional partners and collaborators. Together, we work to advance research that honours babies, strengthens parent–researcher partnerships, and contributes to reducing the impact of stillbirth across Australia.



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this guide. Whether you are a bereaved parent, researcher, clinician, policy maker or collaborator, your willingness to reflect on how we partner with parents in pregnancy and baby loss research matters.

To provide feedback, ask questions, or discuss parent partnership in research practice, please contact us:

Stillbirth CRE – Parent Engagement

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Website: www.stillbirthcre.org.au