

Parliamentary Question

Hon Minister for Health and Medical Services

Thursday 15/03/2018

Written Response

98/2018

Hon. Anare Vadei to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform the House, the number of babies who passed away in the last two years in our health centres and hospitals and the cause of death in respect of each area.

MADAM SPEAKER,

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Foremost for clarification, let me state that babies are defined as under 1 year old.

Given below is the lists of diseases and infant deaths occurrence in the years of 2016 and 2017.

Nature of Diseases	Number of Deaths
All Pneumonia	63
Foetal death of unspecified cause	61
Respiratory distress syndrome	38

Inhalation of gastric contents – aspiration	26
Hearst condition – Atrial septal defect	23
Severe birth asphyxia	22
Bacterial sepsis	39
Meconium aspiration	21
Gastroenteritis	20

MADAM SPEAKER,

In terms of responding to these cases, our medical staff have undertaken the following procedures to reachout and consult the families in a progressive manner.

- When a death occurs and if the family complains to the Ministry then there is a family conferencing to explain preliminary cause of the death that is based on the doctor's report.
- Then the family will also be informed of internal investigations conducted by the (independent team comprising of risk manager and the clinical team at the hospital). During the process of investigations there is always a progressive update provided to the family upon request.
- Once the investigations are completed (which normally takes 28 days max depending on the nature of the case) the root cause analysis findings is then revealed **only** to the family by the Ministry.

MADAM SPEAKER,

It is also important to note that the Fijian Government continues to focus on improving services to mothers and children. As such the Ministry of Health and Medical Services concerted effort with the World Health Organisation has seen significant reduction in maternal adverse outcome rates for the three year period of 2011-2013 period compared to 2013-2015 period. Maternal Death Ratio (MMR) data has fallen from **39.2** per 100 000 live births in 2011-2013 period to **30.9** per 100 000 live birth in the 2013-2015 period.

THANK YOU MADAM SPEAKER.