

## *An Author on a Mission to Bring Infant Loss to the Surface*

The subject of infant loss is not something that is talked about. 25% of babies do not make it into this world, that's a whopping 1 in 4!

But Brisbane based author, and Ausmumpreneur finalist, Kelly Maree, has made it her lifetime goal to support bereaved families and raise awareness about the struggles of PTSD due to infant loss. This mission became particularly personal for Kelly when she lost her son Oli on New Years Day 2016.

"I know so many families have experienced this," says Kelly. "Since losing Oli and starting my author journey, so many people have come forward to express their suppressed grief about losing their angel."

"This just isn't a topic that comes up in normal conversation," explains Kelly. "Even within a family, and this is what I want to change."

During COVID lockdown, Kelly Maree wrote a series of children's books called Oskar's Adventures, to celebrate the life of her beautiful, healthy boy, and to honour the memory of his twin angel, Oli.

Kelly's story has been in the Courier Mail's Quest Newspaper and the Moreton Daily, Kelly was a finalist in the Ausmumpreneur awards, has written a chapter for a collaboration project about her NICU journey, several articles are due for release this month, and she will be speaking about infant loss at the Stories of Hope Australia event in late September.

Kelly hopes the dedication pages in her books will help families talk about their angels, no matter how hard, as it is a topic she discusses at length with her son.

All of her books are dedicated to the infants that didn't make it, and to all the doctors and nurses around the world in the NICUs, fighting to save lives. A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to the Precious Wings and RBWH Foundations.

Kelly Maree is currently writing '*The Purple Dragonfly*', about life in the NICU, which will assist new families with the hospital journey, surviving infant loss and coping long term with PTSD and anxiety. It will include a diary to encourage parents to write about their experience.

"Writing then about my hospital experience and sharing my story now, has helped me through my time in the NICU and is now repairing my soul," says Kelly.

Kelly's first books will go on sale Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, in line with the International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, a time in which families can remember their angels.

With the aim of her books to be in every Australian household, Kelly then plans to offer translated versions world-wide. She is also working towards '*The Purple Dragonfly*' to be in every NICU around the world, to assist families in processing their thoughts and emotions.

Kelly is available for an interview, or to speak at any event by contacting her at [kelly@kellymareeauthor.com](mailto:kelly@kellymareeauthor.com).

The books are available to through her website [www.kellymareeauthor.com](http://www.kellymareeauthor.com).

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