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Page 1 of 2

# The story of Willow

## Montmorency mum's touching story on her little baby angel



**DEANNA MORTON**

WHERE do I begin? Someone once told me that once you hold your baby for the first time, you will love like you have never loved before, experience an unexplainable feeling that you will forever have.

On May 29 at 12.32pm, I felt that love, that instant connection. Suddenly life felt complete and it was because I gave birth to my beautiful baby girl, Willow. She was taken from me almost immediately and put straight into an incubator for instant care.

Baby Willow was born at just 23 weeks and six days, weighing a tiny 502 grams, but still so precious and so gorgeous.

I spent my days and nights by her side at the NICU in The Royal Women's Hospital followed by The Royal Children's Hospital. This is where I watched my girl grow, move at the sound of my voice and the books I read her, and open her beautiful eyes.

Test after test, watching my girl in pain day in and day out while she

was fighting for her life, was the toughest thing I have had to do. My baby could no longer continue her beautiful journey on earth with her mumma by her side. Although so strong and such a fighter with so many wins along the way, her lungs were weak and slowly one by one her organs began to slow down.

On June 24, I cuddled my baby girl Willow as she took her last breath and grew her angel wings.

No longer with us but never forgotten and forever in our hearts.

More than 48,000 Australian babies are admitted into neonatal and special care units every year.

Life's Little Treasures Foundation provides services like hospital resource folders, smartphone apps, educational webinars, parent support networks and so much more.

If you can, please sponsor me through my online fundraising page so I can meet my target and make a difference in the life of a baby and their family. Please join

me and many other families in the 2018 Walk for Prems on Sunday, October 28. Details: [lifeslittletreasuresfundraising.com.au/AngelWillow](http://lifeslittletreasuresfundraising.com.au/AngelWillow)





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Page 2 of 2

