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Page 1 of 2

National walk to aid families of prem babies

Zoe Keenan

The first question Kambalda resident Leah Lynham asked when she woke from giving birth under general anaesthetic was, “is my baby alive?”

Her son Harry Lynham was born prematurely at 34 weeks on February 24 in Kalgoorlie this year.

“It was 4am when my waters broke and we had to be flown out of Kalgoorlie by the Royal Flying Doctors Service to King Edward Memorial Hospital,” Ms Lynham said.

At the hospital, the largest maternity centre and only referral centre for complex pregnancies in WA, Leah could not see her baby for six hours after giving birth.

Harry was placed in the neonatal unit as a level three premature baby for 24 hours before he was moved to the level one nursery where he stayed for 11 days.

“It was horrible, you have a baby and you expect to have them with you as soon as they’re born,” Ms Lynham said.

“You expect to cuddle them whenever and instead your baby’s in a box and only allowed to be picked up every three hours.”

Ms Lynham spent 11 gruelling days at the centre alone while her husband looked after their other

two children. “Everything’s done on the hospital’s terms, it doesn’t feel like it’s your baby,” she said.

“There’s a set routine of things to do before you can pick them up. It was pretty horrible.”

Seven months on and Harry is a happy and healthy baby.

“You would never even know he was born prematurely, he’s clocked nine kilograms and is

meeting all of his milestones.”

This month Ms Lynham will participate in the national Walk for Prems annual fundraising event for the Life’s Little Treasures Foundation.

The foundation is dedicated to supporting the families of babies born sick or prior to 37 weeks gestation.

“I’m doing this to help other parents and babies going through what we went through, or some parents they stay there for months.”

Ms Lynham will be participating through the Walk for Prems on the east oval in Kambalda on Sunday, October 28.

To donate to Ms Lynham’s fundraising team Neomates go to lifeslittletreasuresfundraising.com.au.



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Page 2 of 2



Kambalda mother Leah Lynham with her son Harry Lynham, seven months.
Picture: Kelsey Reid