

# You can help make little miracles happen for Mater babies.

Every baby born at Mater is a Mater little miracle.



That's one in seven Queenslanders and more than 10 000 new babies every year who can proudly say, "I'm a Mater baby." In fact, there are probably many children at your school who took their first breath at Mater.

But sadly, not all babies are born healthy. Some are born premature, are seriously ill, or are simply too small to go straight home with their parents.

Babies like Declan, who was born 15 weeks early, weighing a tiny 750 grams.

*Turn over to read his story ...*

**By raising funds for Mater Little Miracles, you can help save the lives of thousands of babies just like Declan—by helping fund life-saving research, care and equipment.**

By supporting Mater Little Miracles, your school will make a huge difference to the many families being looked after at Mater—ensuring their tiny babies can grow up to be beautiful, happy and healthy children.

**For that, we simply cannot thank you enough.**

For more information on how your school can raise funds to help seriously ill and premature babies, visit [materfoundation.org.au/schoolsfundraising](http://materfoundation.org.au/schoolsfundraising)





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## **Declan didn't get a hug from his parent's until he was 10 days old ...**

When Mystie's waters broke at 23 weeks and 5 days into her pregnancy, she was terrified for her unborn baby.

Declan was born at Mater Mothers' Hospital 10 days later—he weighed just 750 grams.

At one week old, before his parents even had the chance to hold him, baby Declan went in to surgery for spontaneous perforation of the small intestine.

"It was hard to wrap our heads around how they could operate on someone so tiny," Declan's dad Colin said.

His parents finally held his tiny, fragile body for the first time when he was 10 days old and still on a ventilator to help him breathe.

Mystie said Declan improved reasonably well after his surgery.

"It had its ups and downs; he progressed well, probably a bit more slowly than others, but each at their own pace," Mystie said.

"I think the scariest part was taking him home and not having nurses around."

After 98 days in hospital, Declan was finally discharged.

Now three years old, he has regular growth and development checks at Mater.

"He's just a happy and healthy little boy doing all the things three year old boys do," Mystie said.

"Colin and I feel so blessed to have Declan in our lives—we have so many good things to look forward to thanks to the wonderful start he was given at Mater."

**By raising funds for Mater Little Miracles through your school, you can ensure other seriously ill and premature babies, like little Declan, have the best possible start to life.**

