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## **EASTWOOD BUB BORN 14 WEEKS EARLY FINALLY HEADS HOME**

An Eastwood bub who terrified her parents with a dramatic early arrival has finally headed home after 12 weeks in Royal North Shore Hospital's specialist newborn intensive care unit.

Little Nareh Oganessian was just 806 grams and 34 centimetres long when she was born on June 7, more than three months before her due date.

Mum Naira, 34, and dad Armen, 40, were shocked and scared, describing the tumultuous days before Nareh's birth, and her unexpected arrival, as the worst days of their lives.

After two normal full-term pregnancies – daughter Lousine is 13, and son Eric is 11 – the couple never imagined they would have complications the third time round.

"We never thought this would happen to us – we were just in shock," said Naira, a childcare educator.

Armen recalls his new bub's tininess with awe.

"When I held her she felt like nothing – she was just so small, but now when I give her a cuddle she feels like a real baby," he said.

Alexis Fox, the nurse unit manager of Royal North Shore's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), said improved healthcare meant pregnancy and birth complications were not as common as they once were – but they still happened.

"Pregnancies don't always go to plan - some babies are born early or sick and require expert clinical management," Alexis said.

"Our NICU provides care to approximately 600 babies and their families each year, and some stay with us for months.

"It's always a very positive day for our multidisciplinary team when parents are able to finally take their precious baby home.

"We look forward to catching up on return visits for follow up appointments and celebrations such as birthdays."

Baby Nareh went home on what would have been her due date – September 12 – weighing almost three kilos, and measuring 48 centimetres.

PICTURE 1) Baby Nareh with her parents Naira and Armen, siblings Lousine and Eric, and Alexis Fox (centre), the nurse unit manager of Royal North Shore's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

PICTURE 2) Newborn Nareh clings to her mum's finger.

PICTURE 3) Armen holds his tiny new bub.