



What is the main barrier to breastfeeding?

Public hearing in Melbourne on Thursday 7 June

The House of Representatives Health Committee will hear from a diverse group of organisations about some of the barriers to successful breastfeeding in Australia at a public hearing in Melbourne on Thursday 7 June.

Committee Chair Alex Somlyay said that the committee would welcome input from these organisations and also any members of the public wanting to tell their story.

“We will particularly appreciate hearing people’s experiences during the community statements at 2pm. There has been such great interest from the community in this inquiry and hearing people’s stories really brings home the issues,” Mr Somlyay said.

The peak organisation supporting breastfeeding, the Australian Breastfeeding Association will present evidence on the significant body of research which demonstrates that nutrition in infancy has a significant influence on health outcomes throughout life.

The Justice and International Mission Unit from the Uniting Church in Australia will outline their concern that the marketing of breastmilk substitutes undermines breastfeeding rates.

Kelly Zantey, creator of the parenting website Bellybelly.com.au, will present the Bellybelly online community’s ideas about the main barrier to breastfeeding in Australia. Online communities are an increasing source of information and support for new mothers and an area that the committee is interested in exploring.

The committee will also hear from the Royal Women’s Hospital, the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society, PANDA and the Victorian Maternal and Child Health Coordinators group.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Rooms 2/3 Victorian Parliamentary Committee Office
Level 8, 35 Spring Street Melbourne

9.30am Australian Breastfeeding Association
10.15am Uniting Church in Australian – Justice and International Mission
10.55am Royal Women’s Hospital
11.35am Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society
12.00pm Victorian Maternal & Child Health Coordinators Group
1.10pm Post and Ante Natal Depression Association (PANDA)
1.30pm Bellybelly.com.au
2.00pm Community Statements

For media interview with the Chairman:

Please contact Mr Somlyay’s office on (02) 6277 4727 or his electorate office (07) 5471 6611.

For further information on the inquiry: Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or email haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/breastfeeding/index.htm>