

Submission no. 400

AUTHORISED: 20/6/07 

Subject: Breastfeeding

HI,

Re my experience with Breastfeeding.

I was at a private hospital and I found that no-one was really listening to me when I told them that bubs wasn't attaching properly. I left the hospital in absolute agony every time I fed. No-one even told me they had a lactation consultant there so of course I never knew to ask. Which I am angry about.

Upon leaving the private hospital though, of course they can no longer offer you any assistance and put me onto the lactation consultant at the public hospital.

These ladies were nice but it was a real EFFORT to see me as I had gone to the private hospital. One womans words were "I guess we could see you as an out-patient". After one session a few days later (approx 6 weeks in) I rang and left a message in tears and they never bothered to ring back. I seemed to be at a disadvantage because I'd had my baby at the private hospital.

Everyone seemed to be saying ring the Aust Breastfeeding Association. I did ring them and found them ok but you have to remember at this stage I was in agony with mastitis and they told me to keep feeding or use a cup. Also the thought of going to a "meeting" was horrifying as my baby had severe reflux/colic was crying 20/7 and I was in so much pain the thought of meeting a group of strangers was too much.

That's why I tended to ring the lactation consultants as it was one to one.

In the end I gave up and expressed. I am now pregnant again and am actually terrified to breastfeed but will give it another go - I will refuse to leave the hospital until both my baby and I are confident.

So how to help more women breastfeed? I don't understand why we should have to pay \$70 for a breastfeeding class at the ABA (I understand they have to be funded), but once again why is the public hospital offloading this to the ABA? I feel breastfeeding is DEFINITELY promoted enough, it's just the post-pregnancy support which is severely lacking. Especially for people who use private hospitals.

Yours Sincerely

Laura Jackson

5/06/2007