

**Submission no. 404**

AUTHORISED: 20/6/07 *M*

**Subject:** Breastfeeding feedback

I have a 6 month old baby and had terrible trouble with breastfeeding. I left hospital with cracked and bleeding nipples and developed mastitis which turned into an abscess and I needed hospital treatment. My baby turned off the breast at 2 months and I have been expressing ever since. I tried everything to keep her on the breast but failed. My comments would be:

1. All the midwives at St. Vincent's Private gave me different and often conflicting information so I didn't know what to do
2. After developing trouble I had to pay to get help either through a lactation consultant or through the breastfeeding clinic at the Cabrini hospital. None of this was covered on Medicare
3. Medicare should cover the cost of breast pump hire which I have had to do for 4 months in the attempt to keep feeding my baby breastmilk.

I would say there is very little help and support for women having trouble breastfeeding. Sure, you can pay....but that indicates to me that breastfeeding is not treated as a matter of importance by the health industry in Australia.