


Submission no. 79
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From: Graham and Naomi Hu
Sent: Wednesday, 21 February 2007 4:19 PM
To: Committee, HAA (REPS)
Subject: Submission : Inquiry - Breastfeeding

Submission for the Federal Govt. Inquiry into Breastfeeding

I am a 35yr old mother of 2 children, who were both breastfed for 12 months, and I am a Registered Nurse.

I am pleased that you are holding an inquiry into breastfeeding and hopeful that it will lead to some constructive changes in our Nation's attitude to breastfeeding.

From this inquiry I would like to see

1. Freely available antenatal education on breastfeeding and breastmilk for all parents... Mums and Dads.
2. Breastfeeding promoted as the NORMAL way to feed a baby.
3. The WHO code on the Marketing of artificial milk fully enforced in Australia.
4. Parents and Health Professionals educated on the risks of Artificial Milk
5. Health Professionals (in particular GP's, Midwives and Child Health Nurses) receiving *uniform* education on how to educate and support parents to breastfeed for a longer duration and who to refer to when something is out of their scope of practice. eg. IBCLC's or the Australian Breastfeeding Association.
6. Policies put in place to make it easier for women to continue to breastfeed and return to work.
7. Education of the Australian public, so that they can support and encourage mothers to breastfeed. After all, it takes a village to raise a child.
8. Government funding and support for the amazing work done by the Australian Breastfeeding Association, eg a National Helpline with financial support for the volunteer workers that operate this much needed service in the community.
9. The set up of Milk Banks around Australia so that all babies will have access to breastmilk no matter what their circumstance.
10. Easing of workload's for Midwives so that they are able to better support new mothers in the first few days after birth. Mother's are quite often sent home before their

milk comes in, leaving them on their own to work things out. It is also often difficult for them to get an appointment with a child health nurse due to heavy demand on the system (in Brisbane). They are left feeling isolated.

I look forward to the results of this inquiry and am confident that the Government will make some positive changes in our society. The cost benefit alone and the increased health of our society should be enough to motivate some changes.

thank you for this opportunity,
Naomi Hull
RN, BN, Grad Cert Critical Care