



15 February 2007

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Health and Ageing
House of Representatives
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I am writing this submission as a mother of one and as a trainee breastfeeding counsellor of the Australian Breastfeeding Association.

My little girl is almost 12 months old and I can happily say still being breastfed according to need. It is sad to say that this could have been a very different story without the support of the Australian Breastfeeding Association.

I went along to some ABA meetings before having my daughter and became a member. This gave me valuable information and support on breastfeeding when my daughter came along.

When my daughter was only a couple of hours old and was wanting to feed a lot that night I was asked by the midwife if I wanted to do comp feeds. I said no thanks and was then told to deal with it then. It is attitudes like this that need to be changed. All mothers should have breastfeeding support in all hospitals and birthing centres. Misinformation, contradicting information and negative comments need to be eradicated if we are going to encourage people to breastfeed.

Not everyone can breastfeed without encountering some difficulties along the way. Where do they go for help and support? If you go to many health professionals you are told to just give your child formula. You are not encouraged to continue feeding and given support and correct information to overcome these hurdles. More funding needs to be given to voluntary groups like the Australian Breastfeeding Association and the health professionals need to keep up to date with current breastfeeding information.

It's pretty sad when you get dirty looks in public for feeding your child and are told to feed her in the Baby Change Room (toilet) because that's what they are for. A mother bottle feeding would not be told the same. The public need to be educated that breastfeeding is a normal and natural part of life. You should feel that you can feed your child anywhere and whenever your child wishes. I would like my daughter and future children to grow up in a world where breastfeeding is an accepted way of feeding their children.

Yvonne Campbell

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