

Original Message
From: Dan, Rick, Jay and Tyler
Sent: Monday, 19 February 2007 0:49
To: 'Narrissa Wheatley' <NAA195@C...>
Subject: Submission for the Breast Feeding Society

Submission no. 59
AUTHORISED: 21/03/07



Narrissa Wheatley

Victoria

February 19, 2007

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to express my concern for the growing population of women who cease breastfeeding their babies prematurely. I am a breastfeeding mother with 2 children and I have a wide range of friends who have given birth in the last 3 years. All sans one have felt the 'need' to stop breastfeeding before they would have liked. This saddens me greatly as I have been through the lows of breastfeeding but have come out on top and so now I enjoy the joy and bonding breastfeeding allows me.

The reasons my friends have all 'quit' have pretty much been because "the baby wouldn't attach" properly (which causes pain) or they "didn't have enough milk". Usually these two problems can be resolved with simple support or guidance from the ABA or some other lactation specialist/organization.

I feel that we are vastly becoming a 'non- breastfeeding society.' The women I talk to all tend to say the same thing "oh its great you are breastfeeding but I couldn't because..." We live in a time where - if something is too hard, we don't bother with it. And that's what is happening with feeding babies in the early months. It gets difficult - there is no support- so a mother takes the only option she feels she has- to bottle feed.

Mothers know about the need to breast feed in the early days- that much is stressed in child birth classes and at hospital visits but there is very little support and promotion for breastfeeding into the months or years of a babies life.

I believe we need to actively **encourage**

Support groups for breastfeeding women

21/02/2007

Hospital staff to promote and assist in breastfeeding in the early days

Provide home visits for those unable to access lactation specialists

Free clinics or specialists with **NO** waiting times

TV ads encouraging breastfeeding in public

Clean and comfortable feeding facilities in shopping centres

Both my children are the strongest and brightest kids I know and I truly believe that breastfeeding has contributed to their level of health and well being.

Sincerely,

Narrissa Wheatley