



How will you feed your baby?

Public hearing on Monday 4 June Commonwealth Offices, Sydney

At the upcoming public hearing in Sydney, the House Health Committee will hear evidence on the information available for mothers who are making decisions on how to feed their baby.

Committee Chair, Mr Alex Somlyay, indicated that the inquiry was very interested in hearing from all mothers about this decision, whether they decided to breastfeed or use infant formula.

“At 3 months of age, only 32% of babies are receiving any breastmilk which indicates that a majority of mothers at this stage are using infant formula.” Mr Somlyay said. “This inquiry is looking to find out if the information available enables mothers to make an informed choice.”

The Infant Formula Manufacturers Association of Australia (IFMAA) will give evidence about the importance of infant formula. IFMAA supports the premise that ‘breast is best’ but considers that mothers need more information about infant formulas to assist those who do not breastfeed.

The Advisory Panel on the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula (APMAIF) will also appear to discuss the current voluntary agreement on Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula (MAIF).

Core of Life will present evidence on their unique life education program for young people. The program addresses the realities of pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and early parenting in a fun and interesting way.

A number of other key public health issues will be presented by the Public Health Association of Australia and the NSW Centre for Public Health Nutrition. The Australian Lactation Consultants Association, Tresillian and EMAP Pty Ltd will also give evidence on the day.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE *Venue:* Conference Room, Commonwealth Offices, Charterbridge House Level 8, Phillip Street, Sydney

9.00am	Infant Formula Manufacturers Association of Australia
10.00am	Australian Lactation Consultants Association
10.30am	Public Health Association of Australia
11.15am	NSW Centre for Public Health Nutrition
11.35am	Core of Life
12.00pm	EMAP Pty Ltd
1.30 pm	APMAIF
2.00 pm	Tresillian Family Care Centres

This hearing will be webcast live on 23 May on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media interview with the Chairman:
Please contact Mr Somlyay's office on (02) 6277 4727.

For further information on the inquiry: Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or email haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/breastfeeding/index.htm>