
Submission no. 80

AUTHORISED: 21/03/07



To whom it may concern

It is brings me great joy to hear there will be an inquiry into Breastfeeding in Australia, as a mother of three boys who were breastfed I wait eagerly to hear of the health benefits that I have experienced and witnessed within my own family. I have often wondered why the Government has not acknowledged my contribution towards our Health system and of course many other women like myself. I contribute our good health to the fact that my boys were fully Breastfed for over 12 months and as such have not had many visits to the Doctor, I also make this claim because I have read the facts on Breastfeeding and seen the studies. My wish for this inquiry would be for all Australians to know these facts as we now know about the harmfulness of smoking, even though this may harm the sales of smoking so this knowledge of Breastfeeding may harm the sales of artificial milk. I guess the question the Government needs to ask is, do we gain more from children being breastfed against the importing and exporting of a consumer product that is available without a prescription and medical support and can be potentially dangerous to an infants health if not used correctly.

An outcome of this inquiry could be to seriously look at Milk Banks in this country so this liquid gold is available to all Australian babies who due to circumstance are not receiving it naturally. Also to look at the benefits that human milk can do for our society in other ways other than feeding babies, such as transplant, eye infections and even rebuilding brain cells and those are only a few I have read as a non medical person. I think it is an untapped resource that has many benefits to us in a country that is struggling to keep a hold on our natural environment and keep our green emissions down. Breastmilk doesn't need packaging its free and it doesn't create green house gases in its production.

So I wish you luck and hope you enjoy your research into one of the most exciting subjects on this planet, and I haven't even gone into the emotional and cultural gains yet!

Yours sincerely Helen Long