

The Secretary of the Committee of Breastfeeding
House of Representatives
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

I have recently become a mother and was fortunate to have breast milk over and above the needs of my newborn. I made several inquiries into donating this excess milk and was shocked to find that this option is not available in Australia.

My daughter was born with a heart condition (VSD). Knowing that she was receiving all the nutrition she needed to grow and develop a healthy immune system to allow her heart to heal, meant that we had one less thing to worry about. My heart goes out to parents of babies who do have problems at birth and do not have the reassurance that their nutritional and developmental needs are being fully met with human breast milk.

Knowing that indeed there were premature and sick babies that could benefit from my excess milk, I have sadly poured litres of excess milk down the drain during my six months of breast feeding because this service is not readily available.

Even if my milk was enough to help just one premature or sick baby through the critical weeks to safety, wouldn't that justify such a service? If thousands of women like me could contribute to providing this service, just imagine the difference it could make, not just for one baby, but for thousands. And what if that one baby was yours?

Sincerely

Honi Virgo