

CONCLUSION

Breastfeeding is the biological reference point for infant feeding against which all other alternatives should be measured. There is convincing evidence to show that premature weaning results in increased risk of disease and poorer outcomes for infants and their mothers both in the short and long term. The effects of which are dose-related i.e. the more breastmilk, the lower the risk of disease.

Breastfeeding belongs to women, it is not something that makes anyone any money and therefore is not seen as a valuable resource in terms of competing in international markets with large corporations that manufacture infant formula. These companies have the resources to spend large amounts on research and in marketing their product because there is profit involved. It is clear that the health consequences associated with premature weaning from breastfeeding are manifold and serious. Breastfeeding is an investment in the future health of our children and adults. It therefore makes sense for the government to seek to increase breastfeeding duration in Australia.



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