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Breastfeeding Inquiry

In answer to Mr Georganas' question, Tuesday 17 April 2007, page HA 30:

Norway is the most successful breastfeeding nation in the post-developed world because the Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs recommends to Norwegian women that they take their babies up into bed to feed at night, and fall asleep with them there - baby feeds all night, mother sleeps all night - just like all little mammals - almost all demographics are successful - costs nothing - SIDS is about 2/3 that in Australia. Norway has the highest incidence of long period bed-sharing - about 52% for more than half the night.

Sweden is second best at breastfeeding, because they have the second highest incidence of women sharing a bed with their babies. (slightly less than 50% for > 5 hours, and 65% for any shared sleep in Stockholm).

Australia is a middle-of-the-road country for bedsharing and hence longer term breastfeeding - in Brisbane, only 12.5% of women in Brisbane share a bed with their baby for more than 5 hours, and 30% for any shared sleep.

It's straightforward. I'm telling you this in case my submission isn't heard. I would like to put this in person.

Madeleine Love,