

Committee on Health and Ageing
House of representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra 2600

To the Secretary,

I write this submission in support of the Mothers Milk Bank which is currently seeking federal government support and funding to continue supplying pasteurised mothers milk to infants and to expand the service to areas outside the Gold Coast.

As a Dietitian and lactating mother I contacted the Mothers Milk Bank to enquire about donating my breast milk. Because I live outside the Gold Coast area I am unable to donate perfectly abundant and healthy human milk.

I am passionate about breastfeeding and about educating mothers and the public about the vital importance of breast milk over any other source of food and nutrition for babies. The benefits to babies given mothers milk, and also to mothers of infants who are unable to breastfeed are:

- The prevention of Necrotizing Enterocolitis in premature infants.
- It provides optimal nutrition for physical and neurological development.
- The production of healthy gut bacteria from oligosaccharides found in breast milk, hence preventing digestive disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome and constipation later in life.

- It assists in the treatment of allergies and feeding intolerance, immunologic deficiencies and inborn errors of metabolism.
- Assisting in the prevention of post-natal depression, and unnecessary emotional trauma in mothers who wish to but are unable to breastfeed their newborn.

Pharmaceutical companies would have us believe that infant formula is an ideal replacement for breast milk when mothers cannot breastfeed. But it does not have to be the ONLY alternative. Less and less mothers are breastfeeding now because of a lack of correct attachment and education about the benefits of breast milk, and busy schedules of the 21st century mother. The Mothers Milk Bank will assist in educating mothers and the public, evening up the marketing campaign with big budget formula-making companies.

The dealings I have had with the existing Mothers Milk Bank on the Gold Coast have been organised and professional. I congratulate them on the work they have done so far, and look forward to see them grow when appropriate funding is secured.

Yours Faithfully,



Narelle Greenlees