

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO BREASTFEEDING 15 4 07

Hello Alex,

Periodically we have these enquiries, and next there will be an enquiry into the rate of Caesarean sections in this country-just wait and see. I spent 40 years at my Pharmacy counter and I don't recall the Makers of Milk formulas actively trying to seduce young mothers. We in the Pharmacy made 20c a tin on formula, so we kept it as a convenience only. Staff were trained to know the different claims of different brands. The average young Mum is no fool and is just trying to do the best for her baby. However Breastfeeding advocates talk to God and speak with a fervour and righteousness that would have the Rev Billy Graham humbled. Those Mums that are not actively breastfeeding are treated like guilt-ridden lepers. I have known young Mums lie that they are actually breastfeeding. I think certain Maternal Professionals are trying very hard to defend their knowledge patch against an alternative view.

I have 2 daughters with differing experiences.

1 .First there is Kirsten- a Doctor who really does talk to God about breast feeding. God lives in the USA in a cool climate. When Kirsten's baby was in his pram in summer Brisbane being wheeled by the hour at knee height, red faced, and fretting mightily I suggested he should be given some WATER. I should have known that breastfed babies don't need water! After raising 3 kids... how stupid of me! So the poor little fellow went without. He was underweight, and even though Kirsten was a member of the local Pharmacy Baby Club none of the staff were game to ask to weigh him or say anything. So on it went. He has grown just fine.

2. Second. Daughter Fiona the Physio. Her baby was born by caesarean, but she was keen to breast feed and did everything possible towards this in the hospital. She paid for a visit by a lactation specialist. When at home a midwife visited and the baby yelled, and the husband, a Doctor working 16 hours days with Queensland Health tried to help out. So with the baby now being dehydrated she turned to the dreaded formula. The child thrived, no one twisted her arm to persuade her to do this. She sees her friends desparately trying to breast feed and their child is hungry and crying, and the household is in turmoil as the relationship is strained.

So Fiona's second baby came... another Caesar, and when the lactation failed to arrive as we are all told it will she decided to bottle feed the second baby on her last day in hospital. With every feed she had to sign a disclaimer because she was bottle feeding... how intrusive is that.!

The Breast Feeding specialists tell us how easy it all is. Then in hospital they say that you have to learn how to do it, and that it all takes time and the baby has to learn too. So Fiona's bottle fed babies are now 7 months and 25months and are thriving and intelligent and the toddler eats a varied diet, and has had one slight cold at 17 months. What is wrong with this?

If the Breast Feeding Folk wanted do actually do something they should spend their time on the women who are drinking alcohol and smoking during pregnancy and after.

The Breast Feeding Lobby has no right to put a burden of guilt on women who cannot breast feed. There is much more to do for children in our society than that .

When will we have the Parliamentary Inquiry into Caesarian
Section? I'll bet it won't be long.

Sincerely, Jan Brown