

AUTHORISED: 20/6/07
Submission no. 451AUTHORISED: 20/6/07 *R***Subject:** Parliamentary Inquiry into breast feeding**Importance:** High

This email has come about after I found out that a magazine that I subscribe to will no longer be providing information to mothers on bottle and formula feeding under the recommendations of the Women's Health Organization.

As a mother to a seven month old boy and as a women who strongly believes in empowerment through education and information I am deeply appalled that an organization that claims to understand women issues and wont stand for discrimination of women has gone about discriminating women on the issue of feeding children. It is in my opinion that by not proving unbiased information on feeding options you will not see an increase in breast feeding but will alienate a population of women who have "chosen" not to or are unable to breast feed. Motherhood is hard enough without the added guilt that media and organizations push onto you. Our society is about choice and no women should be made to conform to an ideal that dose not support her current situation/lifestyle. Breast feeding dose have health benefits but formula feeding dose not harm nor hinder infant development and this can be seen in our society where success is not determined by wether or not you where breast feed and children are learning at different paces due to many reasons not solely based on the reported benefits of breast feeding. All I am asking is that our government support both choices that women are presented with and back these choices with information, education and support so that women wont be made to feel like they are sentencing there child to a lifetime of sickness and learning difficulties if circumstance or choice stop them from breastfeeding.

14/06/2007