



# Breastfeeding in far-north Queensland

## Public hearing on Wednesday 4 April Cairns City Council Chambers

Queensland health and indigenous health organisations, along with experts in maternity services and lactation will appear at a public hearing in Cairns on 4 April 2007. The hearing is a key part of the inquiry into the health benefits of breastfeeding being conducted by the House Health and Ageing Committee.

Committee Chairman Alex Somlyay said the Committee is very interested in the rates of breastfeeding in rural, remote and indigenous communities and whether the rates are affected by the marketing of infant formulas.

“This public hearing will provide an opportunity to speak with groups from far north Queensland about the steps they take to support and encourage breastfeeding in new mothers and give them an opportunity to put forward suggestions on ways to improve both the rates and duration of breastfeeding”.

The Committee will hear from a range of organisations that provide health services to Cairns and the Cape York region, such as the Royal Flying Doctors Service, the Cairns Base Hospital and Mookai Rosie, the hostel where many women from remote communities stay when they come to Cairns to have their babies.

The hearing is open to all members of the public.

### PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

**Venue:** Reception rooms, Cairns City Council Chambers  
119-145 Spence Street, Cairns

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|---------------------|------------------------------|
| • 9.00am – 9.40am   | Royal Flying Doctors Service |
| • 9.40am - 10.20am  | Mookai Rosie-Bi-Bayan        |
| • 10.20am - 10.40am | Wuchopperen Health Service   |
| • 11.10am – 11.40am | Cairns Base Hospital         |
| • 11.40am – 12.10pm | Tropical Public Health Unit  |
| • 12.10pm – 12.30pm | Private Citizen              |
| • 12.30pm – 1.00pm  | Community Statements         |

**For media interview with the Chairman:**

Please contact Mr Somlyay's office on (02) 6277 4727.

**For further information on the inquiry:** Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or email [haa.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:haa.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/healthfunding/index.htm>