



Australian
Breastfeeding
Association

Evacuation centre signage pack

Pregnant women, breastfeeding
mothers, babies and toddlers



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Background

The signs in this resource were created as part of the Australian Breastfeeding Association's Community Protection for Infants and Young Children in Bushfire Emergencies Project (ABA Bushfire Project). They aim to assist emergency responders to support and protect the health and wellbeing of pregnant women, infants and young children and their parents and caregivers in evacuation and recovery centres.

Research conducted as part of the ABA Bushfire Project, *the Babies and Young Children in the Black Summer (BiBS) Study*, found that evacuation centres were often a very challenging and sometimes risky environment for parents and children. Safety concerns often arose because parents were unaware of where they could access the resources or support they needed. The BiBS Study found that women often evacuated on their own with children and did not ask for the help they needed. They were too busy looking after their children, did not know who to ask, or did not feel confident asking for assistance.

Challenging or unsafe situations identified in evacuation centres included:

- Reconstitution of infant formula and washing of baby feeding bottles in unhygienic toilet hand basins.
- Women not breastfeeding due to lack of privacy, resulting in infant dehydration.
- Lack of support for feeding difficulties or knowledge of where assistance could be obtained leading to situations like the washing of feeding bottles in toilet sinks.
- Child protection concerns and issues with animals due to families being mixed in with the general population.

The BiBS Study also found that recovery centres could be equally challenging places for pregnant women and the caregivers of babies and toddlers. These challenges often related to their continuing care needs for food, drink, nappy changes and sleep. Queuing was a challenge for parents and particular for pregnant women some of whom fainted while queuing for resources.

How to use these signs

The signs in this pack display information for parents to assist them to obtain the support they need in evacuation and recovery centres. They can be printed, laminated (optional) and displayed in appropriate places throughout a venue.

They are designed to be printed in standard A4 size using any available printer. If colour printing is not available, they can be printed in black and white.

Further information

The ABA Bushfire Project has developed a suite of resources that can assist those planning for and operating evacuation and recovery centres to support pregnant women and those caring for babies and toddlers.

Visit aba.asn.au/disaster-support to view the full collection, including:

- A quick and free **e-learning module** that provides practical guidance on providing *Disaster support for babies, toddlers and caregivers*

- A downloadable **infographic** that summarises the support needs of families with babies and toddlers in evacuation centres, and is also relevant to recovery centres
- **Scenarios** focused on the needs of infants and young children for use in evacuation centre set-up and training exercises
- A **checklist** to assist with evaluating potential evacuation or recovery centre venues for suitability and safety for families with babies and toddlers
- Guidance on supporting pregnant women and families with babies and toddlers in **recovery centres**
- A guide for evacuation centre workers on **supporting safer sleep** for babies during evacuations
- An **animation on psychological first aid** for babies and toddlers and their caregivers
- A policy and guidance document on the **management of infant formula** donations, procurement and distributions in emergencies

Acknowledgements

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ABA's National Breastfeeding Helpline also receives funding from the Australian Government.

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Australian
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STOP!
Do NOT wash baby bottles
or bowls here.





Australian
Breastfeeding
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Need baby feeding supplies?

**Don't wait. Ask staff
for what you need.**



Need help with breastfeeding?

Call the Breastfeeding Helpline

1800 686 268





Australian
Breastfeeding
Association

Breastmilk storage





Australian
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Nappy waste bin



Nappy changing area



Handwashing area



Private:
Do not disturb

Area for families with babies and toddlers



Baby food preparation and cleaning area





1800mum2mum
Breastfeeding Helpline 1800 686 268

Private breastfeeding area





1800mum2mum

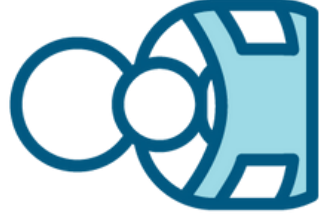
Breastfeeding Helpline 1800 686 268

Breastfeeding welcome



Pregnant or caring for a baby or toddler?

Let us know how we
can support you.



Wash baby bottles and bowls here



Need a place to wash baby bottles or bowls?

Please ask.

