



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Cancer wouldn't stop Katie from breastfeeding her baby – now she wants to help others**

When Katie was diagnosed with stage two Hodgkin's lymphoma at 34 weeks pregnant, she had one clear goal: to breastfeed her baby. Against the odds, she did it.

[For 2026 World Cancer Day](#), Katie shared her full story with the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) on their [podcast](#) and contributed to [a new article](#) on breastfeeding during or after a cancer diagnosis as a lived experience reviewer.

ABA Executive Officer Victoria Marshall-Cerins says these resources provide vital support to families navigating the shock of a cancer diagnosis, when reliable, accessible information can make all the difference.

"We're proud to release both Katie's powerful podcast episode and our article on breastfeeding and cancer. Katie has been so generous, sharing her story and expertise in reviewing the article. Her lived experience means these resources will genuinely support other families navigating similar journeys," says Ms Marshall-Cerins.

### **Background to Katie's cancer diagnosis and her wish to continue breastfeeding**

"The first thing I asked my sister Emma was if I can't feed my baby, is there any way that you would be able to help me?" Katie recalls. "I couldn't finish the sentence before she had said yes."

Emma, who was pregnant at the same time, stepped in to breastfeed both her own daughter Lucy and Katie's son George while Katie underwent eight rounds of chemotherapy followed by radiation therapy. During treatment, Katie expressed and disposed of milk she could not use while on chemotherapy drugs, keeping her supply as low as possible so she could relactate when treatment finished.

Once cleared to feed her milk to her baby, Katie pumped up to ten times a day, working with lactation consultants and receiving donated breast milk from a supportive community of mothers.

"I just was like, that's my goal - breastfeeding my child," Katie explains in the ABA podcast. "And I had this image in my head every time I pumped, every time I expressed... I'm gonna feed my child."

Katie successfully returned to breastfeeding George, who is now nearly over a year old and breastfed by his mother.

Katie's message to others facing similar challenges: "Build your village. Get your people. You'll find someone anywhere you go who will be on your team. You've got to be brave and reach out and ask."

## About ABA

- For more than 60 years, ABA has been Australia's leading authority on breastfeeding support, education, and advocacy.
- ABA provides a range of services including a 24/7 Breastfeeding Helpline, LiveChat, and a wealth of resources for both parents and healthcare professionals.
- As a key implementation partner of the *Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy 2019 and Beyond*, ABA's Helpline and LiveChat services are vital for parents.
- Today, ABA has over 28,000 members supported by more than 100 local peer support groups round Australia.
- In the last 12 months ABA volunteers have supported almost 60,000 Helpline calls and web-based chats on the National Breastfeeding Helpline and LiveChat services.
- More than 2 million users have accessed the Association's worldclass website for breastfeeding and parenting information.
- ABA's 700+ volunteer breastfeeding counsellors and educators also run free local support groups, Breastfeeding Education Classes and provide feeding advice at community events across Australia.

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Media Contact: ABA National Media Team

☎ 03 9686 6096

✉ [marketing@breastfeeding.asn.au](mailto:marketing@breastfeeding.asn.au)