

For immediate release: 14 May 2015



**Australian
Breastfeeding
Association**

ABN: 64 005 081 523
RTO: 21659

Australian Breastfeeding Association urges Government to reconsider changes to parental leave

The Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) is disappointed by the proposed changes to paid parental leave that will force an early return to work for Australian mothers.

ABA's CEO, Rebecca Naylor said, "the Australian Breastfeeding Association strongly encourages the Australian Government to reconsider any changes to paid parental leave that may force an early return to work.

Returning to work is one of the key reasons why women cease breastfeeding. Policies that enable mothers to continue to breastfeed are an important part of achieving national breastfeeding goals."

Current Australian infant feeding guidelines recommend that babies are exclusively breastfed to around 6 months, and that breastfeeding be continued until 12 months of age and beyond. An increasing body of research tells us that low breastfeeding rates contribute to increased chronic disease in our population, impacting on the Australian healthcare system.

"Not only do Australian mums need support to establish breastfeeding, they also require breastfeeding friendly policies and practices that enable continued breastfeeding in the workplace, childcare and the community," said Naylor.

"Supporting women to achieve these targets is important to the long term physical and emotional wellbeing of women and children."

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Rebecca Naylor, Chief Executive Officer (0433 064 585)

Links:

<https://www.breastfeeding.asn.au/bfinfo/health-outcomes-associated-infant-feeding>

About the Australian Breastfeeding Association

The Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) is Australia's largest breastfeeding information and support service, providing assistance to more than 80,000 mothers each year. ABA also provides up-to-date information and continuing education for thousands of health professionals working with mothers and babies. It is our vision that breastfeeding is recognised as important by all Australians and is culturally normal. As Australia's leading authority on breastfeeding, we support, educate and advocate for a breastfeeding inclusive society.