



Media Release
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Congratulations To Caltex On Implementing Family Friendly Practices

The Australian Breastfeeding Association's Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace program commends Caltex Australia on implementing its Caltex BabyCare initiative. This is an important family friendly work program to support parents to return to work after having a baby.

'Without the right support, a significant number of women experience anxiety, choose to delay their return to work, reduce their work hours or leave their jobs altogether. This is not good for employers or their bottom line. We commend Caltex Australia on the commitment it has made to its employees and their families,' said Ms Rachel Fuller, National President, Australian Breastfeeding Association.

'With the right information and program, supporting breastfeeding employees can be very easy and inexpensive for employers, which in turn makes an enormous difference to mums and their babies. At a time when 118,000 women (nearly 63%) return to work by the time their child is 6 months of age, many feel forced to stop breastfeeding before they are ready.

'Many employers are often unsure of the needs of a breastfeeding employee and how to make that transition back to work from maternity leave easier.

'To assist employers in this process, the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) has initiated the not-for-profit Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation program. Through an accreditation process, our Consultants work closely with companies and organisations to assist in establishing facilities and developing policies that support breastfeeding women to meet both their work and family commitments,' outlined Ms Fuller.

Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation aims to remove the workplace as a barrier to breastfeeding. An increasing number of women return to work within the first year of their baby's life and with the right support, breastfeeding employees can successfully combine breastfeeding and paid work.

Breastfeeding women need ongoing support from health professionals, governments, the community, partners, family members and workplaces to breastfeed. By meeting ABA criteria, accredited workplaces offer employment conditions to make it easier for women to combine breastfeeding and work. Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation delivers innovation in creating family friendly workplaces and is a tangible, practical tool for employers that enable parents and carers to better balance work and family commitments.

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