



22 April 2022

Margaret Grove
President
Australian Breastfeeding Association
Level 3 Suite 2 150 Albert Rd
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Dear Ms Grove,

I write in response to your correspondence to Anthony Albanese MP about the Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and Beyond.

Labor appreciates the key role that the Australian Breastfeeding Association plays in advocating for the benefits of breastfeeding for children and their mothers. I would like to thank you and your members for the important work they do every day.

It has been well established that the nutrition received by children in the first thousand days of life is crucially important to their growth, development, and well-being, and that breastfeeding is not only the best nutritional option, but also one of the most effective preventive health measures for children. The WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life, followed by continued breastfeeding with appropriate complementary foods for up to 2 years and beyond.

The Strategy supports the key role that family members play in enabling breastfeeding as well as influencing the broader societal challenges to normalising it. The strategy sets objectives in relation to increasing the number of babies that are breastfed, access to education, supports, and public spaces, health professional education, appropriate regulation of marketing of infant formula, and community education.

It follows on from the initial Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy 2010-15 established under the Rudd Government in 2009.

Regrettably, since announcing the Strategy in 2019 there has been little Morrison Government follow-up. This is just another example of the Morrison Government's inability to deliver on their commitments.

If elected to Government, Labor will work with stakeholders, including the Australian Breastfeeding Association, to better support breastfeeding families and their babies, and to give real effect to the Strategy and including the Action Areas you have identified.

As you know, the election will be held on 21 May. Over the next few weeks, Labor will be making more announcements as part of our commitment to strengthen Medicare, to complement those already made. Labor's policies can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your correspondence.

Kind Regards



Paul Erickson
ALP National Secretary