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Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 12:53:48 PM

To: VIC BP <vicbp@breastfeeding.asn.au>

Cc: Bandt, Adam (MP) <Adam.Bandt.MP@aph.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Speaking up for breastfeeding mums and letting politicians know what we need

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your letter and for the great work that ABA does in supporting breastfeeding parents and infants. I am a policy adviser for Adam Bandt, and am sending this email on his behalf.

The Greens recognise that breastfeeding gives babies a great start in life, but isn't possible for everyone. We have committed to making an \$8bn investment in the public health system that will allow all hospitals offering maternity services to achieve Baby Friendly Hospital accreditation and provide appropriate support to new parents.

The Greens will also fund an expert-designed national survey of maternity care experiences (antenatal, birth, and post-natal care). The results of the survey will inform the development, implementation, and funding of future measures to support breastfeeding and those unable to breastfeed, counselling, pain management, continuity of care and access to midwives. In developing the survey, we will consult with stakeholders to ensure that it covers matters addressed in the National Infant Feeding Survey.

The Greens also recognise the importance of culturally appropriate maternal healthcare. We will establish five Birthing on Country / Birthing in Our Community hubs in urban, regional and remote areas to support First Nations families. The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Brisbane hubs have observed a significant increase in breastfeeding rates and improved access to antenatal care, addressing key health indicators under the Closing the Gap targets. The success of the five pilot sites will demonstrate the value of rolling out similar programs across the country.

The Greens will also provide 26 weeks of paid parental leave at replacement wages (up to \$100,000 pro rata) to maximise the time that parents can spend caring for young children, and encourage workplaces to provide more flexible working arrangements and supporting for breastfeeding parents. Our Public Sector policy calls for full implementation of the APS Gender Equality Strategy, including actions around adopting the Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out.

Kind regards,

Naomi

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Leader of the Australian Greens and Member for Melbourne

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I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the country on which I work, the Ngunnawal people, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. Sovereignty was never been ceded. This always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

GREENS