Position Statement on Donor Milk

Applies to
• All ABA staff and volunteers

Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word or Phrase</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human milk bank or HMB</td>
<td>An organisation or service that collects, stores, screens, processes and distributes human milk.</td>
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<td>Donor milk</td>
<td>Human milk donated to a milk bank or in an informal milk sharing arrangement</td>
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<td>Informal milk sharing</td>
<td>Sharing of human milk outside of a HMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Association</td>
<td>The Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA)</td>
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Scope
• All ABA publications and communications, national, branch, regional and group
• All ABA websites, forums and social media
• All ABA events (including group meetings)

Principles
The Association supports and encourages the establishment of human milk banks in line with the WHO/UNICEF Declaration of 1980: ‘Where it is not possible for the biological mother to breastfeed, the first alternative, if available, should be the use of human milk from other sources. Human milk banks should be made available in appropriate situations’.

Objectives
• Support women in making informed choices about donor milk and milk banking
• Encourage the establishment of milk banks
• Protect the Association from potential risks involved in donor milk sharing

Position statement
The Association is committed to supporting women to breastfeed their babies, and to provide information and support to enable this. The Association believes that a mother’s own milk is the ideal food for her baby and child, and with the right information and support, most mothers can produce enough breastmilk for their babies.

In cases where mothers do not have enough breastmilk to nourish their babies, or where breastfeeding is not possible, the Association believes that human milk from another woman is the next best alternative, and supports women to make informed choices about the available alternatives, including donor milk. The Association also recognises that some mothers will choose to source human milk from private donors (informal milk sharing arrangements). There are risks involved in using privately-sourced donor milk. The Association strongly encourages mothers to
ensure that they are well informed of the potential risks and benefits of donated human milk, methods available for minimising risks, and to make decisions based on their own individual circumstances.

The Association does not directly facilitate private milk sharing by making its resources available to link private donors and recipients, and accepts no responsibility for expressed breastmilk donated by its members. Association members who donate expressed breastmilk do so as breastfeeding mothers, and not on behalf of the Association. The Association provides the following links to other resources as a service to the community and to assist parents to make an informed decision. The Association does not necessarily endorse the information available from these resources and makes no representations as to their accuracy.

- [www.eatsonfeets.org](http://www.eatsonfeets.org)
- [www.hm4hb.net](http://www.hm4hb.net)

The Association recognises that milk banks provide tested, donated human milk for human babies, and welcomes discussion/collaboration with ethical not-for-profit organisations for the development of milk banking guidelines and partnership agreements. Australian human milk banks (which have a partnership agreement with the Association) may use Association publications to advertise for volunteer donors or provide information about their services.

In some circumstances, breastmilk may be sourced from the following milk banks:


For information on increasing supply, the Association counsellors can be contacted:

- on 1800 mum 2 mum (1800 686 268)
- by email at: [https://www.breastfeeding.asn.au/services/emailcounselling](https://www.breastfeeding.asn.au/services/emailcounselling) (members only)

**Approved by**

ABA Board

**Revision history**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of modifications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS002.201102</td>
<td>24 Feb 2011</td>
<td>Approved by ABA Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>V2</td>
<td>Nov 2013</td>
<td>Position Statement reformatted for website template. Updated urls. No change in content.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V3</td>
<td>29th Nov 2014</td>
<td>Merged with Human Donor Milk Policy. Approved board meeting 163</td>
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