



Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council

Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2017 and beyond

Fact Sheet 1 – updated May 2017

At the COAG Health Ministers meeting in September 2016, it was agreed that an enduring Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy (the Strategy) be developed, incorporating two components:

- development of a high level enduring strategy to support breastfeeding in Australia, with no end date; and
- national agreement on how data is collected nationally to measure progress on increasing the number of babies who are breastfed exclusively up to six months

A Project Team has been established in the Australian Government Department of Health in collaboration with the Breastfeeding Jurisdictional Officers Group and the Breastfeeding Expert Reference Group.

Breastfeeding Jurisdictional Officers Group

The Breastfeeding Jurisdictional Officers Group comprises key jurisdictional officers overseeing the development of the Strategy. The Group reports to the Standing Committee on Child and Youth Health, under the auspices of the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee, a principal committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

Members of the Breastfeeding Jurisdictional Officers Group

- **Commonwealth** - Alan Philp (Chair), Director, Preventive Policy Section, Department of Health
- **New South Wales** - Deborah Matha, Acting Director, Maternity, Child, Youth and Paediatrics and Joan Stort, Senior Policy Analyst, Health and Social Policy Branch, Ministry of Health
- **Victoria** - Megan Leuenberger, Principal Maternal Child Health Nurse Advisor, Wellbeing, Health and Engagement Division, Department of Education and Training
- **Queensland** - Sally Russell-Hall, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Preventive Health Branch, Department of Health
- **Western Australia** – Susan Bradshaw, Senior Portfolio and Policy Officer, Child and Adolescent Community Health, Department of Health
- **South Australia** – Belinda Biddle, Clinical Service Coordinator – Postnatal Service, Women's and Children's Health Network
- **Tasmania** - Judy Seal, Principal Public Health Nutritionist, Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Northern Territory** - Alexander Wetten, Child Health Nutritionist, Department of Health
- **ACT** – Ann Burgess, Midwifery Adviser, Nursing and Midwifery Office, ACT Health
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative** - Denese Griffin, Manager, Aboriginal Maternity Services Support Unit, WA Health

Breastfeeding Expert Reference Group

The Breastfeeding Expert Reference Group provides advice to the Project Team on breastfeeding. Membership consists of representatives from organisations with an expertise in breastfeeding. The Group is chaired by Debra Thoms, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Australian Government Department of Health.

Organisations represented on the Breastfeeding Expert Reference Group:

- Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine
- Australasian Association of Parenting and Child Health
- Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Limited
- Australian Breastfeeding Association
- Australian College of Midwives
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Private Hospitals Association
- Childbirth and Parenting Educators of Australia
- Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives
- Dietitians Association of Australia
- Lactation Consultants of Australia and New Zealand
- Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Australia
- Murdoch Children's Research Institute/Centre for Community Child Health
- National Health and Medical Research Council
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Queensland Department of Health (Preventive Health Epidemiology)
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Telethon Kids Institute
- Women's Healthcare Australasia

Consultation

Stakeholder consultation workshops in all states and territories were held in April and May 2017. These will inform the development of a draft Strategy which will be made available for public consultation on the Department of Health's website (<https://consultations.health.gov.au/>) in June/July 2017.

In the second half of 2017, a final draft will be submitted to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council for approval.

Further information

If you would like further information on this project, please contact the Project Team by email: Reproductive.Health@health.gov.au.