

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 3 February 2020 4:15 PM
To: maif
Subject: FW: Infant formula donations in response to bushfire crisis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From: Debra Thoms s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 8 January 2020 12:09 PM
To: Peter Davies s47F @uq.edu.au>
Cc: s22 @health.gov.au>; Jan Carey s47F ;
 s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Infant formula donations in response to bushfire crisis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Yes i agree - as Jan says the companies cannot tell Foodbank what to do and we may have limited capacity but perhaps even a conversation with them just so they are aware of the agreement etc but not wishing to stand in the way of people in need

cheers

Deb

Debra Thoms

Independent Consultant

Adjunct Professor University of Technology, Sydney

Email: s47F

s47F

Mobile: s47F

On 8 Jan 2020, at 9:33 am, Peter Davies s47F @uq.edu.au> wrote:

I think that if possible "we" (somebody) should tell Foodbank that they should only give donations to formula feeding mothers

Peter

Professor Peter SW Davies

B.Sc (Hons), M.Phil, Ph.D, R. Nutr, FNSA

Honorary Professor of Childhood Nutrition

Child Health Research Centre, Level 6 Centre for Children's Health Research, University of Queensland, 62

Graham Street, South Brisbane QLD. 4101

☎ s47F

💻 s47F @uq.edu.au

s47F

🌐 www.uq.edu.au/cnrc | CRICOS Provider No: 00025B

From: s22 @health.gov.au>
Date: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 at 3:37 pm
To: Jan Carey s47F >, Peter Davies - 75447
 s47F @uq.edu.au>
Cc: Debra Thoms s47F, s22 @health.gov.au> ,

s22 [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Infant formula donations in response to bushfire crisis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi All

Many thanks for the quick response. I like you Deb hope this is not a common occurrence, but I suspect we should always be prepared. Based on the below comments lets add it to our next agenda for some further discussion but in the meantime not hamper this product getting to those who may need it

Regards

s22

From: Jan Carey <[REDACTED]@uq.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 4:07 PM
To: Peter Davies <[REDACTED]@uq.edu.au>
Cc: Debra Thoms <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>; s22 <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>; s22 <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Infant formula donations in response to bushfire crisis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Deb and Peter

I'm on leave today. Your response is what I expected from you both. Thanks.
 To be clear, the formula is being donated to Foodbank and it's up to them to distribute it to those who need it. It is not possible for companies to stipulate one can per infant.

Regards

Jan

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Jan 2020, at 3:18 pm, Peter Davies <[REDACTED]@uq.edu.au> wrote:

Dear All

I agree with Deb and I have taken the liberty of highlighting what I think are the key "points" here. However, I have a vague memory of something like this happening after the Brisbane and SE QLD floods a number of years ago and there was some dissent from a few people, so there may be angry voices from some, but I think at the end of the day we are doing the "right thing"

Peter

From: Debra Thoms <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>
Date: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 2:10 PM
To: s22 <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>
Cc: Peter Davies <[REDACTED]@uq.edu.au>, Jan Carey <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>, s22 <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Infant formula donations in response to bushfire crisis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

I think that as we are facing an **unprecedented situation** with these bushfires and levels of devastation across a broad geographic area that we need to provide some flexibility in interpreting the agreement. My view would be that provision to **women who are currently formula feeding a baby would be appropriate** particularly where they have may have lost everything already and may not have much in the way of funds at this moment. I would suggest it could perhaps be **restricted to one can in the first instance** - the important thing is that the **baby continues to be fed** and if the woman is not breastfeeding and has limited or no access to formula via the usual means then i think we actually need to assist. If needs be we could produce some guidance for situations such as these which are very much a 'one off' occurrence (well we certainly hope that this current bushfire situation won't be repeated for many many years).

regards

Deb

Debra Thoms

Independent Consultant

Adjunct Professor University of Technology, Sydney

Email: s47F s47

s47F

Mobile: s47F

On 7 Jan 2020, at 10:03 am, s22

@health.gov.au> wrote:

Dear MAIF Committee

Please see below email from Jan Carey on behalf of some INC members.

I am seeking your initial thoughts on this issue and in particular whether you would consider this to be a breach. I note that no formal complaint has been received so this is not a formal request, however your responses will guide whether we need to consider relevant guidance for this issue (link to relevant MAIF Agreement below).

<https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/public-registers/documents/D15%2B143530.pdf>

Many thanks, and happy New Year all.

Regards

s22

Director Food and Nutrition Policy
<image003.png>

Population Health and Sport Division
Preventive Health Policy Branch
Australian Government Department of Health
T: 02 6289 s22 | M: s22 |
E: s22 @health.gov.au
Location: Sirius Building & N.107
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

From: Jan Carey s47F
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 4:34 PM
To: s22 @health.gov.au
Subject: Infant formula donations in response to bushfire crisis
[SEC=No Protective Marking]

Dear s22

I am following up a conversation that I had with s22 today about infant formula donations to Foodbank for those affected by the current bushfires.

Some INC member companies have contacted the INC to ask if it is OK to donate infant formula through Foodbank which is coordinating and delivering what is needed to those who need it.

Strictly speaking in accordance with the MAIF Agreement, all donations in response to emergencies such as this should be through a health care professional institution. However, this interpretation lacks common sense and humanity and is not in accord with the aim of the MAIF Agreement to provide "safe and adequate nutrition for infants".

I told s22 that the Infant Nutrition Council endorses donations of infant formula through Foodbank. She agreed that in the current Australian bushfire crisis, it would seem to be OK for companies to donate infant formula through Foodbank and such activity would not be considered a breach of the MAIF Agreement.

Please let me know if you disagree with this interpretation.

Kind regards,
Jan

<image001.png> **Jan Carey**
CEO

<image002.jpg>

Ph Aust
Ph NZ
Mobile

s47F
s47F
s47F

Email s47F
www.infantnutritioncouncil.com

<image001.png>

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Marketing in Australia of Infant Formulas (MAIF) - Complaints Committee

Meeting 6 – Thursday 27 February, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

MINUTES

Participants:

Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms (Chair), independent representative

Ms Jan Carey, Infant Nutrition Council (INC), industry representative

Professor Peter Davies, Honorary Professor of Childhood Nutrition, University of Queensland, public health representative

Secretariat:

s22, Department of Health

s22, Department of Health

Item 1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the sixth meeting of the MAIF Complaints Committee (Committee). Members were also reminded of their confidentiality obligations.

Item 2. Update of Declarations of Interest register and agreement to publish

Members were invited to declare any new interests in addition to those previously declared in relation to their role on the Committee.

Professor Davies consulting work with industry was noted by the Committee, and Secretariat will upload to the Department's MAIF webpage.

ACTION

- Secretariat to update of conflicts of interest for the Department's MAIF webpage.

Item 3. Review and acceptance of minutes of MCC Meeting 5 – 11 October 2019

Members agreed to the Committee minutes of 11 October 2019 and the Signatory Forum minutes (with a minor edit) of 10 October 2020.

Item 4. Action follow-up

Members noted the status of actions.

The Chair advised that all necessary actions have been completed or are on the agenda today, including finalising the three priority guidance material. The following is the only action remaining outstanding:

- *Members agreed to hold signatory forums annually. Potential dates for 2020 signatory forum to be discussed.*

It was requested that in future, the Secretariat advise signatories, when the MAIF Complaints Committee Annual Report is published.

ACTION

- In future, Secretariat to advise signatories when the MAIF Complaints Committee Annual Report is published.

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Item 8. Other Correspondence and other business

s22

Provision of infant formula during emergency situation

The Committee discussed the issue of infant formula companies donating infant formula to charities such as FoodBank during times of declared state of emergency. Members agreed that such donations were appropriate, however considered more research is required on how the infant formula is disseminated. There may be a need for guidance to ensure the infant formula is distributed appropriately and prepared safely.

It was agreed the Secretariat seek internal legal advice as to the appropriate next steps, whether the provision of such circumstances be addressed with the reauthorization of the MAIF Agreement or during its review.

ACTION

- Secretariat to undertake more research on how infant formula is disseminated during emergencies and liaise with Department's legal area on the best option forward on the issue.

s22



Members agreed to the following dates and times for the 2020 meetings:

- Friday 8 May 2020 1-4pm
- October 2020 – TBC (and signatory forum)
- November-December 2020 – TBC

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

s22

- Secretariat to undertake more research on how infant formula is disseminated during emergencies and liaise with Department's legal area on the best option forward on the issue.

s22



Australian Government

Department of Health

s47F

National Coordinator
World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative, Australia

s47F

Dear s47F

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2021 following correspondence of 15 January 2021. I apologise for the delay in responding.

In relation to your queries regarding the Department's intentions in regards to infant feeding in emergencies, this is an area we are carefully considering. We welcome the advocacy of WBTi Australia and would like to engage further with you as we develop our thinking in this area.

As you are aware, we are currently establishing a National Breastfeeding Advisory Committee (the Committee), which will provide advice to the Department in regards to the implementation the *Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and Beyond*, including advice relating to infant and young child feeding in emergencies. We plan to include the Call to Action on an early agenda for the Committee to consider.

You raised the need for research funding for the impact of emergencies and their impact on infant feeding and related matters. The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) supports a range of research initiatives to improve the health of Australians and plans funding support according to the MRFF strategy and priorities. Information on all open MRFF and National Health Medical and Research Council grant opportunities is available at www.grants.gov.au. Applications for research funding under the MRFF's *2020 Maternal, First 2000 Days, and Childhood Health* grant opportunity recently closed. Research in line with your suggestions would be suitable for inclusion in this process. Applications are due to be assessed in March and April 2021 and outcomes are to be announced mid-year.

I trust this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Andrews
A/g Assistant Secretary
Preventive Health Policy Branch
26 March 2021

s22

From: GOODCHILD, Tiali
Sent: Tuesday, 31 August 2021 10:01 AM
To: s47F
Cc: maif; s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22; WOOD, Mary; s22; s47F; s47F
Subject: FW: Donations of infant formula through Foodbank during COVID-19 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Jan

Thank you for your email on behalf of Foodbank in relation to urgent requests for provision of infant formula to certain areas impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

The Department agrees the impact of current COVID-19 restrictions, particularly in regional areas are extenuating circumstances that warrant the provision of infant formula to families should they have this particular need. Consistent with the Department's ongoing commitment to prioritise and support breastfeeding, and previous advice provided to Foodbank in 2020 on this matter, it remains necessary to put in place processes that will ensure provision of breastmilk substitutes is given only to those who absolutely need it.

In the coming weeks the Department will finalise the draft framework to assist with this guidance regarding donations during emergencies, to be aligned with the implementation of priority actions outlined in the *Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy – 2019 and beyond*. If a complaint is made to the Department, the current extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration by the MAIF Complaints Committee in due course.

We will also reach out to Foodbank to clarify any concerns they may have as well.

Kind regards
 Tiali

Tiali Goodchild

Assistant Secretary

Population Health Division | Primary & Community Care Group
 Preventive Health Policy Branch
 Australian Government Department of Health
 T: 02 6289 s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au
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 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

From: Jan Carey s47F
Sent: Sunday, 29 August 2021 3:36 PM
To: GOODCHILD, Tiali s22 @health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>; WOOD, Mary s22 @Health.gov.au>; Debra Thoms s47F s47F
Subject: Donations of infant formula through Foodbank during COVID-19

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Tiali,

I received an email this weekend from Foodbank about the Covid situation in regional Victoria.

They have received requests to procure infant formula for distribution in the lockdown areas and have been given approval from the Victorian Health Department under the emergency provision who in turn have sought approval from the federal government.

Foodbank asked me if they were OK to proceed with just state health department approval and I replied that under the MAIF Agreement, the signatories cannot donate infant formula to Foodbank for distribution unless approval is given by the federal Department of Health.

This is the 3rd time since the Covid pandemic crisis that Foodbank has requested infant formula donations from INC members for distribution to formula feeding infants, and I doubt it will be the last.

I know that the Covid pandemic has created an increased workload for the Department of Health, and I am in no position to understand the priorities that you are managing. However, the Delta variant has added an increased burden on essential supplies, especially for regional centres in Victoria and NSW, such as Wilcannia.

My view was, and still is, that lockdown creates a situation for families similar to other emergency situations such as the 2020 bushfires when the Department gave approval for emergency donations.

Addressing the issue of emergency donations under the MAIF Agreement has been on the Department's agenda since the first donations of infant formula were requested by Foodbank in April 2020 in response to the Covid lockdowns. This was discussed in an out of session teleconference meeting by the MAIF Complaints Committee (MCC) on 5 May 2020. At the MCC meeting of 15 May 2020 it was agreed that the Department would draft a framework identifying what would be considered in such circumstances.

I request that the framework be developed, as a matter of urgency.

I also request that a process be approved for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic that responsibly allows emergency donations of infant formula to Foodbank for those infants in lockdown who are formula fed and whose parents and carers cannot otherwise access supply.

Kind regards,

Jan



Jan Carey
CEO

Infant Nutrition Council

AU s47F NZ s47F

[Redacted]

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infantnutritioncouncil.com

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s22

From: Naomi Hull s47F [redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 November 2020 10:35 AM
To: Minister Hunt <Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au>
Subject: Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies

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Dear Minister Hunt,

The years 2019 and 2020 saw a series of natural disasters unfold around the country which highlighted the vulnerability of infants and young children and the current lack of emergency planning and guidance regarding their feeding and care. Infants and young children have very specific food and fluid needs and are dependent on others for their care. They require specific planning to ensure they are kept safe in emergencies.

The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative Australia team (WBTiAus), alerted the Australian Government to the inadequacy of Australia's planning for the needs of infants and young children two years ago in the [WBTi Assessment Report Australia 2018](#). As outlined in the report, Australia lacks planning for the needs of infants and young children at all levels of government and no agency has delegated responsibility for this group. We have much better planning for animals than we do for children.

The Department of Health took the report into account in the development of the enduring [Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and beyond](#) and included as a national priority that a national policy on infant and young child feeding in emergencies be developed. All Health Ministers endorsed the Strategy on 8 March 2019. Unfortunately, there does not appear to have been any real movement towards development of this national policy on infant and young child feeding in emergencies.

The bushfire and cyclone seasons will soon be upon us again and it is probable that families will need to be evacuated and infants cared for in shelters and other emergency settings and yet Australia still lacks appropriate planning for this vulnerable group.

WBTiAus have developed a Call for Action for Infants and Young Children in Emergencies which urges the Australian government to take steps towards developing and implementing emergency planning to protect the health and wellbeing of infants and young children in emergencies.

This Call for Action is supported by 38 of Australia's leading health, women's, children's, and emergency organisations and will be publicly launched tomorrow.

We request your support and commitment to the recommendations in the Call for Action and would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the content and a way forward.

Your sincerely,

Naomi Hull RN, IBCLC, MPH
 National Coordinator

World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative, Australia



Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies

Call for Action

Thursday 12 November 2020

Infants and young children are vulnerable in emergencies due to their immature immune systems, very specific food and fluid needs, and reliance on others for care needs¹. The summer of 2019–2020 generated the need for emergency responses across Australia due to bushfire. No consistent support was provided to those caring for infants and young children, including regarding their feeding. As a result, infant health was placed at risk due to premature cessation of breastfeeding and unsafe formula feeding practices. The COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted health services, adding to anxiety and stress for new mothers about their child's health and development.

Emergencies in Australia are commonly associated with heat, disruption of water, power, and food supplies, reduction in communication and health services, and with a need for evacuation to locations with limited amenities¹. These conditions heighten the importance of supporting mothers to continue breastfeeding where ever possible. They also mean that formula dependent infants require targeted support to enable continuity of supply of safe infant formula, safe water, power, and health care.

However, the need to protect, promote, and support appropriate and safe infant feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) has been overlooked in Australian emergency planning. In 2018, WBTi Australia audited Federal and State and Territory government emergency planning and revealed a dearth of content dealing with the needs of infants and young children at all levels of government¹. It found that no government agency has responsibility for ensuring that infants and young children are protected, through well-coordinated and appropriate emergency planning and response.

In 2019, Australian Federal and State and Territory governments endorsed the Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy. Australian governments agreed it was a national priority that a policy on infant and young child feeding in emergencies be developed and that skilled breastfeeding and lactation support be available during emergencies². In 2018, Australia as a member of the World Health Assembly also agreed that all countries should:

'Take all necessary measures to ensure evidence-based and appropriate infant and young child feeding during emergencies, including through preparedness plans, capacity-building of personnel working in emergency situations, and coordination of intersectoral operations'³.

National, State, Territory, and Local Governments, logistics and evacuation centre managers, health workers, nutrition experts, and child protection workers should support caregivers of infants to mitigate the adverse impacts of emergencies on their feeding, health, and wellbeing. However, they cannot do so without planning and guidance identifying and addressing their needs. World Health Assembly-endorsed guidance on IYCF-E exists to guide governments and non-government organisations on how to ensure appropriate aid delivery. However, this guidance has not been adapted to the Australian context.

We urge the Australian Government to protect the health and wellbeing of infants in future emergencies by taking the following actions:

1. Urgently designate the Australian Government Department of Health as the national agency responsible for providing advice and support to the states and territories on IYCF-E in the Commonwealth Disaster Response Plan.
2. Establish and appropriately fund a national advisory committee on IYCF-E, composed of stakeholders from governments, academe, emergency and health-related non-government organisations, and excluding commercial interests, to adapt international IYCF-E guidance to the Australian context and develop national planning principles for IYCF-E.
3. Commission the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience to develop an Emergency Handbook on children including IYCF-E.
4. Include detailed advice for health workers on how to support mothers and other caregivers of infants in emergency preparedness, and in the feeding and care of infants and young children during emergencies in the updated National Health and Medical Research Council's Infant Feeding Guidelines for Health Workers

References

1. Gribble K, Peterson M, Brown D. Emergency preparedness for infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E): an Australian audit of emergency plans and guidance. BMC Public Health 2019;19(1):1278. doi: 10.1186/s12889-019-7528-0
2. COAG Health Council. Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and Beyond. Canberra: Department of Health 2019.
3. Sixty-Third World Health Assembly: Infant and Young Child Nutrition. WHA 6323 2010.

s47F

Joe Lindahl MA CAE
Executive Director
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Medicine**

s47F

Denison Grellmann
Chief Executive Officer
**Adventist Development
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Cindy
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of Social Workers**

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Margaret Grove
President
**Australian Breastfeeding
Association**

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Catherine Marron
Chairperson
**Australian College of Children
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Samantha Tutton
BFHI Program Manager
Australian College of Midwives

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Luke Williamson
Chief Executive Officer
Australian College of Midwives

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Dr Eve Merfield
Chair, College Council
**Australian College of Rural
and Remote Medicine**

**Australian Federation of
Medical Women**

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Dr Gemma Crawford
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**Australian Health
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Ms Alison Verhoeven
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**Australian Healthcare and
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Annie Butler
Federal Secretary
**Australian Nursing & Midwifery
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Marilyn Beaumont OAM
National Board Chairperson
**Australian Women's
Health Network**

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Madeleine Munzer
Director
**Breastfeeding Advocacy
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Ros Escott
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Dr Nicole Highet
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Dr Debra Parkinson
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Aimee Sing
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Sabeen Adil
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**International Lactation
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Michelle Simmons
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Louise Wightman
President
**Maternal, Child and Family
Health Nurses Australia**



Maternity Choices



Dr Sophie Brock
President
Maternal Scholars Australia



Alecia Staines
Maternity Consumer Network



Terese Edwards
Chief Executive Officer
National Council of Single Mothers and their Children



Professor Helen Hodgson
Chair
Social Policy Committee
National Foundation for Australian Women



Gabrielle O'Kane
CEO
National Rural Health Alliance



Julie Borninkhof
CEO
PANDA – Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia



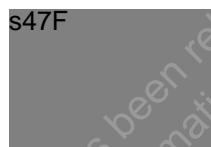
Associate Professor Tim Moss
President
Perinatal Society Australia and NZ



Terry Slevin
CEO
Public Health Association of Australia



Joan Garvan
President
Safe Motherhood for All



S Glover
Salvation Army Australia



Mat Tinkler
Deputy CEO
Save the Children Australia



Wendy Evans
President
Soroptimist International Australia



Nicole Breeze
Director of Australian Programs and Child Rights
UNICEF Australia



Dr Sandro Demaio
CEO
VicHealth



Helen Dalley~Fisher
Senior Manager
Equality Rights Alliance – Women's Voices for Gender Equality YWCA Australia



Bridget Mather PSM
Governor
Zonta International District 22 Ltd.



Sandra Burns
Governor 2020–2022
Zonta International District 23 Ltd.

s22

From: Debra Thoms s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 9:37 PM
To: Jan Carey
Cc: s22
Subject: Re: Infant formula donations [SEC=No Protective Marking]

Hi Jan

Noted - it has been an extraordinary year that is true - hopefully not to be repeated

Deb

On 29 Apr 2020, at 4:14 pm, Jan Carey s47F wrote:

Dear All

Foodbank has once again approached infant formula companies requesting donations so that they can support families that have been affected with loss of income, loss of employment because of COVID19.

Like the bushfires, these are exceptional circumstances and industry wants to help these families at this time of crisis. You said last time that you hoped that this is not a common occurrence. Well, 2020 has been an extraordinary year and we need to support each other to get through it.

I will advise INC members in accordance with the aim of the MAIF Agreement they signed 'to contribute to the provision of safe and adequate nutrition for infants', that they can respond to Foodbank's request. As with the bushfire crisis it will be up to Foodbank to distribute the donated infant formula to families on the basis of individual families' needs. Let me know if you have any objections as soon as possible as you understand, hungry babies need to be fed.

Thanks, and kind regards,
 Jan

Jan Carey
 CEO

Infant Nutrition Council

AU s47F NZ s47F

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