



Preventive Health – establishment of a centralised Donor Human Milk Service

The Government will provide a one-off grant to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to ensure that all premature babies born in Australia can access human milk. It will support the expansion of a coordinated network of donor human milk banks, providing vital infrastructure to expand the existing network so it covers all states and territories. It will create more processing facilities and distribution hubs so that the network can provide national coverage. The funding will also support research into the benefits of donor milk.

Why is this important?

Human milk leads to better health outcomes for premature babies and experts recommend pasteurised human milk as a better alternative to infant formula.

Current access to donor milk is through four in-hospital milk banks that operate in neo-natal intensive care units, as well as one community based service. It's estimated that the demand for human donor milk for premature babies is around 7,600 litres per year. This funding will be important in ensuring that this demand is met – right across the country.

Who will benefit?

Premature babies and their parents will benefit from access to human donor milk.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$2 million in 2019–20.