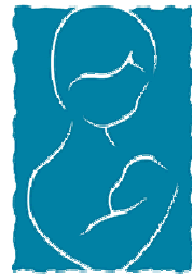


Media Release - 1 March 2006

Dismay at calls for athlete to be banned for expressing breastmilk



australian
breastfeeding
association

The Australian Breastfeeding Association calls on Olympic managers to support Janine Ilitch and other breastfeeding athletes who want to provide breastmilk for their infants during the Games. This follows concerns that the champion netballer may be banned from the Commonwealth Games village because she wants to express milk for her baby son.

Although competing and being away from her baby she is keen to ensure her baby Heath doesn't miss out.

Many women today also combine breastfeeding and work by expressing milk for their babies. Legislation in all states and the Commonwealth level protects them from discrimination if they do.

The Australian Breastfeeding President Margaret Grove said today. "That mothers should be supported, not hindered in their choice to breastfeed. The role of breastfeeding in helping prevent obesity and various chronic illnesses in later life, and in lowering the risks of common childhood infections is well established.

It is up to the mother to decide what is best for her baby and the community should be supporting mothers and encourage them to meet their baby's needs instead of pressuring them to wean.

Breastfeeding is a national health initiative that everyone should be supporting.

'But it is obvious the message is not getting through, as people still do not see supporting women in their choice to breastfeed for as long as the mother and baby desire as important". Ms Grove added.

The Australian Breastfeeding Association have today donated a Medela Pump In Style Breastpump kindly provided by Medela along with a complimentary T-shirt to Janine to further support and encourage her with her Desire to continue breastfeeding Heath.

For further information visit www.breastfeeding.asn.au

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