



australian
breastfeeding
association

MEDIA RELEASE

AGL KEEPS ABREAST

AGL will receive the Australian Breastfeeding Association's prestigious "Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace Accreditation" during World Breastfeeding Week (August 1-7.)

AGL will join the push to support their female employees, who return to work after maternity leave and want to continue to breastfeed, when they receive accreditation from the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) on Friday August 4th.

"As part of the events taking place during World Breastfeeding Week, ABA will be recognising the leading role AGL is taking in making their workplaces healthy and supportive for women combining paid employment and breastfeeding", said Margaret Grove, National President of the Australian Breastfeeding Association.

The presentation will be made to Mr Gareth Bennett Group Manager People and Culture at AGL's head office in St. Leonard's. AGL has undergone the process of gaining accreditation for all its offices nationally.

"In 2001, one in ten mothers prematurely weaned their baby to return to work, yet Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council recommends a minimum of six months exclusive breastfeeding with ongoing breastfeeding until twelve months and beyond. To protect breastfeeding we need more businesses like AGL supporting mothers to combine returning to work and breastfeeding." said Ms Grove.

Australia lags behind the rest of the world with breastfeeding. Only **one in three Australian mums** continue to breastfeed babies until six months of age well under national health recommendations and world average breastfeeding rates.

"AGL is pleased to support our talented women returning to work while still enabling them to give their babies the best possible start" said Gareth Bennett.

"Workplaces can easily become breastfeeding friendly, and those that have made this move in terms of policies, flexible work arrangements and suitable facilities for breastfeeding employees can reap direct financial benefits as well as contribute to community benefits by encouraging health promoting behaviour. The standard achieved by these leading workplaces has become the standard that other agencies and organisations have to match to become recognised as breastfeeding-friendly workplaces and to realise these benefits." said Ms Grove.

With an increasing number of mothers with young babies returning to paid employment, the support and facilities that employers can provide is critical to protecting breastfeeding, Ms Grove continued.

For details on presentation or photo opportunities
Contact Lee King Australian Breastfeeding Association Director 0408 535 687
Or Megan Kingham AGL (02) 9921 2564 / 0402060399

The presentation will take place at AGL Head Office St Leonard's Sydney, at 10.30 am.

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The Australian Breastfeeding Association's Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation Scheme

- The Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation program is a nation-wide program run by the Australian Breastfeeding Association to accredit employers who support employees wanting to combine paid employment and breastfeeding.
- Employers offer a clean, private area for women to breastfeed their babies or express breastmilk, flexibility of times of usual breaks and/or lactation breaks and information to their employees about these facilities and policies, particularly at the time when maternity leave is requested.
- In addition, employers may offer flexible work options including part-time/home-based/job-sharing and variable hours, assistance with child care, provision of car-parking for a carer to bring a baby to the workplace, and a library of appropriate information on issues relating to work and parenting.
- Around 15 employers have been awarded accreditation nationally since the scheme was initiated less than two years ago. These include the Commonwealth Department of Treasury, Canberra and the University of Queensland.

See ABA website www.breastfeeding.asn.au for further information on the Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Accreditation Program, or breastfeeding and the Australian Breastfeeding Association.

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