



Australian Breastfeeding Association  
1818-1822 Malvern Rd, EAST MALVERN VIC  
PO Box 4000  
GLEN IRIS VIC 3146  
Tel: (03) 9885 0855 Fax: (03) 9885 0866  
Email: [info@breastfeeding.asn.au](mailto:info@breastfeeding.asn.au)  
Web: [www.breastfeeding.asn.au](http://www.breastfeeding.asn.au)



australian  
breastfeeding  
association

## Media Release

12 November 2008

### Find the funding Mr Tanner – babies need carers!

The Australian Breastfeeding Association calls on the Federal Government to put paid maternity leave back on the agenda.

'The workforce of tomorrow begins with the babies of today. All parents should have the right to provide their own care for their child without compromising their employment status and economic position. Parenting is not a lifestyle choice but a part of the normal lifecycle. Paid maternity leave provides societal recognition of the important work of parenting', said Margaret Grove, President of the Australian Breastfeeding Association.

The Australian Breastfeeding Association supports 6 months paid maternity leave for all women. This is based on research that shows paid maternity leave increases the initiation and the duration of breastfeeding. All international, national and state health authorities recommend the support and protection of breastfeeding. Employment protection for breastfeeding is paramount because of the increasing number of women returning to work and the negative impact that this has on breastfeeding duration. Early weaning is associated with increased risks of gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses, obesity, diabetes, breast cancer and poorer cognitive development.

Ms Grove explains, 'Babies need sensitive nurturing and responsive care for normal growth and development. The task of raising a child is one of the most important roles in our community.'

'It is time for the Federal Government and Australians to recognise paid maternity leave as intrinsic to the health of the population both now and in the future. We can't afford not to have a system of paid maternity leave in Australia', Ms Grove said.

Contact:

President ABA	Margaret Grove 0414 773 714
National & NSW PR	Carey Wood 0408 207 826
VIC	Karen Ingram 0414 865 018
QLD	Shannon Breen 0408 889 506
TAS	Marion Bowen 03 6425 5780
WA	Kirsten Tannenbaum 08 9364 1321
ACT	Julie Smith 0416 099 630