



ANTI DISCRIMINATION
COMMISSION QUEENSLAND

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MEDIA ALERT

Mothers' right to breastfeed entrenched in law

Media reports of a Newspoll survey finding that up to a third of all Australians still believe that mothers should not breastfeed their babies in public and a third believe that it should stop within six months, has sparked comment from Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Susan Booth.

Ms Booth spoke out in support of the right of women to breastfeed their children in public places, stating that Queensland anti-discrimination laws protected their right to do so.

"Mothers who breastfeed their babies at work, in education and in cafes, restaurants, shops and public buildings are protected from discrimination under section 7 of the Queensland *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*," said Ms Booth.

The survey also found that although 65 per cent of people believe that breastfed babies have a better chance of survival beyond a year of life, only 29 percent agreed that breastfeeding is acceptable in public.

"The survey reveals an unacceptable double standard when it comes to breastfeeding. There is general consensus amongst health professionals that breast is best for babies; it is people's attitudes that need to shift so breastfeeding is perceived as a normal, healthy and publically acceptable activity for women and their babies."

"Whether people approve of breastfeeding or not, it is every Queensland mother and baby's right to breastfeed in public under the Act— people who have been discriminated against in this way have the right to lodge a complaint with the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland". Ms Booth said.

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Interviews: Commissioner Susan Booth - arranged by press officer