



20 September, 2010

Media Statement

Breastfeeding discrimination now unlawful in Western Australia

The *Equal Opportunity Amendment Act 2010* will come into operation on 25 September 2010, making it officially unlawful to discriminate against someone who is breastfeeding or bottle feeding in certain areas of public life.

“When the new laws come into operation no one can challenge a parent’s right to breastfeed or bottle feed in public,” Equal Opportunity Commissioner, Yvonne Henderson said.

Breastfeeding discrimination applies in the areas of employment, education, access to public places and vehicles, provision of goods, services and facilities, accommodation, disposal of land, clubs and application forms.

“The health and social advantages of breastfeeding for both mother and child are widely acknowledged,” Ms Henderson said.

“WA mothers will join women in other states in Australia in being able to enjoy those advantages without fear of discrimination or humiliation and it is well overdue.”

If you feel you have been discriminated against on the grounds of Breastfeeding, contact the Equal Opportunity Commission on (08) 9216 3900, 1800 198 149 or eoc@eoc.wa.gov.au.

For more information on Breastfeeding discrimination, go to our website on www.eoc.wa.gov.au.

**FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Commissioner Yvonne Henderson
(08) 9216 3954 or mobile number 0409 880 544**

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