



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**23 April 2024**

### **ABA supports inclusive spaces for breastfeeding mothers**

The Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) is concerned that a popular comedian felt it was necessary to request a mother to leave a comedy show while breastfeeding her infant.

'The baby was being breastfed and making natural gurgling noise', said Emily Carrolan, Manager of Breastfeeding Friendly Australia, an ABA initiative. 'Breastfeeding is a right protected by law, and every mother has the right to breastfeed her child wherever she and her baby are allowed to. They also have the right to be respected and feel safe to breastfeed in a public setting.'

The Australian federal *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* and legislation in all Australian states and territories protects the rights of breastfeeding mothers in public spaces and workplaces. This act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes breastfeeding, in various areas of public life, including employment, education, and the provision of goods and services.

'If a baby has been exclusively breastfed at the breast, other options such as expressing may not be either a suitable option or a mother's choice. It is a mother's right to choose how she breastfeeds,' added Emily.

'ABA stands firm in our support for all mothers and their right to breastfeed without fear of judgment or discrimination. ABA will continue to advocate for the rights of breastfeeding mothers and provide support and resources to empower them on their breastfeeding journey', says Emily

As part of creating a Breastfeeding Friendly Australia, ABA runs a ['Breastfeeding is Welcome Everywhere'](#) recognition program, that aims to foster a supportive environment for breastfeeding mothers in various public spaces, including entertainment venues and theatres. This recognition encourages venues to actively support breastfeeding mothers and their infants. By displaying the recognition sticker, venues demonstrate their commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for breastfeeding mothers and families.

If mothers want further support and guidance, they are encouraged to call the free 24/7 National Breastfeeding Helpline on 1800 686 268, which is staffed by amazing, qualified ABA breastfeeding counsellors.

For more information about the Breastfeeding is Welcome Everywhere recognition initiative can be found here: [aba.asn.au/bwe](http://aba.asn.au/bwe)

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