



DiversityACT
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Diversity ACT Community Services
PO Box 101
Erindale Centre ACT 2903
Ph: 0419 964948
E: info@diversityact.org.au

ABN: 95 478 146 869
www.diversityact.org.au

12 July 2021

Breastfeeding, Chestfeeding and Human Milk Feeding

For Immediate Release

Diversity ACT Community Services (Diversity ACT) notes with concern a Daily Mail article published on 11 July. The article represents the views of a person allegedly providing counselling services with the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA). The views shared include a correlation between the LGBTIAQ+ community and “men ringing the helpline and wanting to have inappropriate sexualised conversations about breasts”. This correlation is both grossly offensive and provided without evidence in support. We also mention that the article contains a photograph from the Rainbow Families website which is incorrectly attributed.

We observe that the person in the article named ‘Sue’ considers that she is only trained to provide “peer support for mothers, not gay men, transmen, queer people, agender or asexual people”, and that she believes that ABA has diverted from its original mission “of supporting new mothers”.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual and queer (LGBTIAQ+) community contains many parents, some of whom are pregnant or lactating. We note that for some members of the LGBTIAQ+ community, pregnancy and lactation is challenging and support in feeding their babies is desperately needed. We welcome the partnership between ABA and Rainbow Families, seeking to provide affirming and supportive services for LGBTIAQ+ parents and expecting parents. We celebrate the fact that the first LGBTIAQ+ specific lactation and feeding classes in Australia begin on 17 July 2021.

Diversity ACT also notice that ABA is not erasing language such as “mother” or “mum” or “mothering” from their vocabulary and has no plans to adopt the use of chestfeeding rather than breastfeeding more generally. We hope that “Sue” can overcome her fears, celebrate the love of LGBTIAQ+ parents for their babies, and be a part of building an Australia that includes all parents. By doing so, she would no longer be in breach of Australian discrimination law for refusing service to LGBTIAQ+ people on the basis of their gender/sexuality.

Quotes:

“Having been pregnant, given birth, and lactated, I am deeply aware of the wonderful support that the ABA lactation consultants can provide. I look forward to the type of support that I have received being available for other members of the LGBTIAQ+ community. Feeding my babies was hard work but very rewarding. I want more LGBTIAQ+ people to experience the joy that comes from bonding with your baby through feeding them.”
Megan Watts, President, Diversity ACT Community Services.

What is Diversity ACT?

Diversity ACT Community Services is an LGBTIQ+ support service and registered charity, located in Kambah. The organisation is community based and volunteer run, providing a service hub, social worker, support networks, groups and community resources to assist the LGBTIQ+ community of South Canberra and the broader ACT region.

Media enquiries

Diversity ACT Community Services, ph 0419 964 948, email info@diversityact.org.au