



Australian College of  
**Midwives**

ACM: For midwives. With women. For the future.

# **POSITION STATEMENT**

For Infant Feeding

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

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# The Australian College of Midwives' Position Statement for Infant Feeding

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## Definition

The Australian College of Midwives (ACM) is the peak professional body for Australian midwives. It is an advocacy and educational organization that supports midwives and promotes best practice midwifery.

## Key Principles

1. ACM promotes breastfeeding as the gold standard for infant feeding and nutrition. This position is reflected in ACM facilitation of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI) program nationally. The ACM position aligns with the WHO Code. The College does not advertise or endorse formula, bottles or teats.
2. Every mother should be encouraged to breastfeed, or to provide her baby with human milk. Because of the vital role midwives play in promoting breastfeeding, ACM offers specific breastfeeding education courses based on the best available evidence for midwives to assist them in this role through the Midwives Learn platform.
3. Some women choose not to breastfeed. For others breastfeeding may not be an option. Provided a woman has had access to support and encouragement to breastfeed, midwives should respect her choice. Women who decide not to breastfeed should be supported and, in the interests of both mother and child, must be protected from judgement and discrimination at this critical stage in the development of the mother-baby bond.
4. Midwives have an overriding professional responsibility to women and babies in all circumstances, including where, for any reason, breastfeeding is not possible. ACM recognises the importance of education for midwives in safe alternatives to breastfeeding so that they can meet their responsibilities regardless of the parents' choice or circumstances.

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