

Equal Opportunity (Breastfeeding) Bill

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

- Clause 1 sets out the purpose of the Act.
- Clause 2 provides that the Act will commence on the day after Royal Assent.
- Clause 3(1) inserts a definition of "breastfeeding" into section 4 of the **Equal Opportunity Act 1995**. The definition provides that "breastfeeding" includes the act of expressing milk.
- Clause 3(2) amends section 6 of the **Equal Opportunity Act 1995** to include "breastfeeding" as an attribute on which it is unlawful to base discrimination.
- Clause 4 provides a transitional provision. The clause provides that a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of breastfeeding can be lodged whether or not the alleged incident took place before or after the Act came into operation, provided that no other complaint has previously been lodged in respect of the alleged incident. Complaints that have already been lodged with the Equal Opportunity Commission must continue to be dealt with as if this Act had not come into existence.

