

20 June 2016

Child and Family Health Service re-accredited as Baby Friendly organisation

The Women's and Children's Health Network is delighted to announce that the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) has been awarded Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI) accreditation for a further three years.

This follows the recent re-accreditation of the Women's and Children's Hospital, which means the Women's and Children's Health Network is the first state-wide organisation to achieve and maintain hospital and community BFHI accreditation twice.

In 2013, CaFHS became the first community health service in Australia to receive BFHI accreditation. The renewal of this status is testament to the dedication of CaFHS staff to meeting BFHI requirements and delivering the highest level of practical and moral support to mothers and babies.

The Baby Friendly Health Initiative is an international program developed by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF to ensure that the highest standard of evidence-based care is provided to mothers and babies to promote and support breastfeeding.

Through the integration of BFHI into CaFHS services over the past three years, there has been a small but significant increase in the numbers of infants who are exclusively breastfeeding at four weeks. Similarly the number of infants receiving any breastmilk at six months has also seen some gains. It is the collective commitment of BFHI champions within CaFHS that has contributed to these important health outcomes.

The Child and Family Health Service will be showcased on the world stage in July this year when CaFHS nurse, Mary Schneider, will make a presentation on BFHI community re-accreditation at the International Lactation Consultant Association's annual conference in Chicago.

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