



Statement on the use of sex-specific and gender inclusive language at ABA

At ABA, we embrace diversity. We offer our services free from any form of discrimination, irrespective of a person's country of birth, culture, disability, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.

Our qualified volunteer breastfeeding counsellors and educators are trained to reflect the language of the mums, parents and others who they engage with to provide breastfeeding information and support. This means that if an individual describes themselves as a 'mum' during a call on the Breastfeeding Helpline or at a local group meeting, our volunteers will refer to them as a 'mum'. If an individual refers to themselves as a 'parent', our volunteers will refer to them as a 'parent'.

We acknowledge that a general approach to providing breastfeeding information and support may not meet the needs of all members of the LGBTIQ+ community. ABA provides specific resources and services to meet the needs of parents from this community. In the development and delivery of these resources and services we will adopt the language used by the community. For example, the title of our booklet for the LGBTIQ+ community uses the term, 'chest feeding'; our breastfeeding educators of the LGBTIQ+ online breastfeeding class may use the term, 'birthing parent' when talking to same-sex couples.

In communications to the large, broad or general audiences, ABA will take a different approach. When discussing topics that are sex-based such as breastfeeding, we will use the sex-specific terms *woman, mother, mum*. This will ensure clarity and accuracy in communication. For example, *ABA provides breastfeeding counselling to mothers*.

When discussing topics that are not sex-based such as parenting in general, reference to sex and/or gender is not required for clarity and accuracy in communication. Therefore, we will use gender-inclusive terms, as this approach reflects ABA's values around diversity and inclusion. For example, *ABA provides access to breastfeeding information for Australia's parents*.

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[Read the full policy](#)