



World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi)

AUSTRALIA

Indicator Nine - Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies

What is the WBTI?

- A unique tool created by IBFAN that tracks 15 indicators that look at policy and programs along with breastfeeding data and gives a total score out of 150.
- 98 countries have completed the assessment at least once.
- It helps a country to assess and report gaps as well as stimulate a call to action at the grassroots level right through to government.
- Highlights the gaps in practice and publishes recommendations for action.
- Results for all completed reports can be found at www.worldbreastfeedingtrends.org

WBTI Australia 2018

- in 2017 a group of clinicians, academics and advocates along with relevant organisations came together to complete this assessment in Australia.
- The report was finalised and published in May 2018.
- Australia scored 25.5/150 placing it third from the bottom out of 98 countries.
- Main issues for Australia were a lack of national policy and coordination, lack of legislation around marketing of breastmilk substitutes, bottles and teats, lack of consistent education for relevant health professionals, lack of policy planning around IYCF-e, and no national, consistent, reliable collection of data or monitoring of infant feeding practices.

WBTI -INDICATOR 9

WBTI Indicator 9 - Infant & Young Child Feeding in Emergencies IYCF-E
Process to review the Indicator 9 Team

Dr Karleen Gribble WS University

Mary Peterson ABA

Decalie Brown

PROCESS Indicator 9

- Review of Nationally/State & Local relevant documents included reviewing 22 National Emergency plans & Guidance documents using **keywords**; 'infant' 'baby' 'babies'
- Results; 192 State & Territory plans reviewed
'infant' 'baby' 'babies' identified 110 times
There was awareness regarding the vulnerability of Infants & Young children in some states and territories however for Emergencies, information was brief or had very little detail.

RESULTS Indicator 9

- Almost NOTHING THAT SUPPORTED INFANT YOUNG CHILD FEEDING
- Almost NOTHING THAT SUPPORTED INFANT YOUNG CHILD FEEDING in any Emergency
 - Almost NOTHING SUPPORTED CARING FOR AN INFANT OR CHILD

No information was found in any policy/guideline to support the care of infants and babies or any support for IYCF in any Emergency .

What was found: An abundance of excellent resources on Caring for your pets and animal in many Emergencies

HOWEVER WBTIAus did score .5 in the 2018 WBTI Aus Report, thanks to Australian Breastfeeding Association who has information on how to support IYCF on their website and has supported IYCF training in the past .

GAPS Indicator 9

1. No comprehensive National Policy of IYCF that includes infant feeding in emergencies and contains all elements in the International Feeding Emergencies IFE operational guidelines
2. No National coordination of those responsible for IYCF with NGO's
3. No National Emergency response and preparedness that includes IYCF-e
4. No National requirements for IYCF-e training for health professional – - this has happened! First training in June 2019 (ABA Darwin)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Full details within the report <https://www.worldbreastfeedingtrends.org/uploads/country-data/country-report/WBTi-Australia-2018.pdf> ***Urge to to review the link and the 6 important recommendations as a priority.***

- 1. DOH designated as the resource agency providing advice and expertise on IYCF-E.
- 2. DOH to convene & fund a national advisory committee on IYCF-E incorporating the needs of mothers, infants and young children into all emergency management planning at every levels include broad range of stakeholders from govt & Health
- 3. Indicators related to IYCF-E to be included in the National Breastfeeding Strategy.
- 4. Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience to produce a Disaster Resilience Handbook on IYCF-E and integrate IYCF-E into other Handbooks
- 5. Orientation and training on IYCF-E to be required for Defence personnel involved in emergency management and response.
- 6. Existing Australian education and training on IYCF-E available to all relevant health and emergency workers.

Success Indicator 9

1. Presentation at WADEM Congress by Dale Hansson and Tracey Foster May 2019
2. Dr Karleen Gribble has been commissioned to be involved with the publication of the National Gender & Emergency Management Guidelines.GEM Guidelines.
3. Published paper in BMC Oct 2019 'Emergency preparedness for infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E): an Australian audit of emergency plans and guidance' <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-019-7528-0>

From the evidence found in this search with Dr Karleen Gribble as the lead author

Success Indicator 9

Other positive activities from our WBTI partners

1. National policy discussion - May 2019 - Charles Darwin University - Australian government, Red Cross, and NT government - partnership progressed but still sourcing funding for this project.
2. Training for health professionals, first responders and emergency volunteers - ABA Darwin - June 2019.
3. Successful workshop in Feb 2020 IYCF Training day on 'Coochie Island' QLD , total of 24 attended Thanks to BAA,Dr Karleen Gribble /Jodine Chase /Magdalena Whoolery
4. Further IYCF in Emergencies training proposed for 2021
5. ABA now has a freely available IYCF-e online education module delivered by Dr Karleen Gribble and Dr Nina Chad <https://abaprofessional.asn.au/professional-development/>
6. Safely Fed Australia Facebook page has again being populated.

WISHLIST INDICATOR 9

When any Emergency occurs in Aust, there is
support for IYCF-E

(Infant & Young Child feeding in Emergencies)

The emergency response to their needs, is coordinated and
enacted immediately through an
Australian National Disaster Response Team and it
JUST HAPPENS

Mothers and babies are prioritised