



A DIALOGUE

Breastfeeding: where healthy and sustainable food systems begin

Biographies	
Name	Julie Smith
Title	Chair of Dialogue, Honorary Associate Professor, Research School of Population Health, ANU, and Fellow, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, ANU Crawford School of Public Policy
Bio	Dr Julie Smith (B Ec (Hons)/B A (Asian Studies), PhD) is an awarded Australian Research Council Future Fellow and Honorary Associate Professor at the Research School of Population Health, Australian National University. She is also a Fellow of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute at the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy. Previously she held ARC and NHMRC funded appointments at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (Regnet), and the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH). Her research focusses on gender analysis, taxation policy, and economic aspects of breastfeeding, with more than 45 peer reviewed articles, book chapters and books. She has been an expert advisor to the World Health Organization and the US Department of Health and Human Services, the Australian Department of Health, and to national and international NGOs including ACOSS, UNICEF UK, IBFAN, and WABA. She is a co-founder of WBTi Australia, and a former director of the Australian Breastfeeding Association. Previously, she was a senior economist in the Australian and New Zealand treasuries and the Parliamentary Research Service in Canberra.
Name	Naomi Hull
Title	Co-Chair of the Dialogue, WBTIAUS Coordinator
Bio	Naomi Hull is a Registered Nurse, an IBCLC and has a Masters of Public Health (nutrition) and is the Co-ordinator of the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative Australian team. She has been a volunteer Breastfeeding Counsellor since 2006 with the Australian Breastfeeding Association and qualified as an IBCLC in 2010. During her Masters of Public Health, her interest in the 'bigger picture' grew stronger and for this reason chose to look at the implementation of the Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy (2010-2015) as the topic of her Dissertation. This then led onto her current work, which involved using the World



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	Breastfeeding Trends initiative tool to benchmark Australia’s policies and programs on infant feeding in 2018. Naomi feels strongly about finding a way to ensure the protection and fulfilment of the rights of women and children to access information and support of their health and nutrition.
Name	Alessandro Iellamo
Title	Co-Chair of the dialogue, Independent
Bio	Alessandro Iellamo is a Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding specialists in development and emergencies settings. He has an extensive expertise in infant and young child feeding (IYCF) policies and practices, particularly in emergencies, and on the WHO International Code and other global tools. Previous engagements included working with UNICEF and WHO. He has worked with the WHO’s Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) on the International Code, and has been involved in developing the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTI) and IYCF policy tools with the International Baby Food Action Network in Asia. He has also been involved in research on IYCF policies, practices and programmes, including work environments, International Code implementation, and financial aspects of the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy on IYCF. His expertise on IYCF and IYCF-E having supported African, Middle East and South East Asia. Recently he has been engaged with IYCF and IYCF-E related policies issue also in high income countries, like Italy, Australia and Japan. He supported emergency responses, policies and capacity building and translating the IYCF Global Strategy and the IYCF-E operational guidance into national policies, preparedness plans and training packages. He is currently representing Save the Children in the steering committee of the Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group (IFE Core Group), the Nutrition and Food Security and Livelihood Interagency Technical Working Group, and the Global Technical Advisory Mechanism of Information and Assessments.



Name	Bindi Borg
Title	Co-chair of the dialogue, Independent
Bio	<p>Bindi Borg has over twenty years of experience in humanitarian and development assistance with various international organisations in South and South-East, the Pacific, the Balkans and West Africa.</p> <p>She is a certified breastfeeding counsellor and educator (Australian Breastfeeding Association) with fifteen years of experience providing individual, group, and remote counselling in high-, low- and middle-income countries.</p> <p>She recently completed a PhD in Public Health Nutrition (University of Sydney) on the prevention of undernutrition in Cambodian children under two years. In addition to her PhD, Dr Borg has MAs in Political Science (Peace Studies) and International and Community Development.</p>
Name	Penny Van Esterik
Title	Professor Emerita, York University, Toronto and Adjunct Professor, University of Guelph
Bio	<p>Penny Van Esterik is Professor Emerita of Anthropology, recently retired from York University, Toronto, where she taught nutritional anthropology, advocacy anthropology and feminist theory; she is currently adjunct professor at the University of Guelph. Her fieldwork was primarily in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Indonesia, and Lao PDR). She consulted with UNICEF, FAO and IDRC on topics related to food security and infant feeding. Her research interests include maternal and child health, food and culture, breastfeeding advocacy, and culture history of Southeast Asia. She is a founding member of WABA (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action) and has developed advocacy materials on breastfeeding and women's work, environmental contaminants and infant feeding, and breastfeeding as infant food security. Her books include <i>The Dance of Nurture: Negotiating Infant Feeding</i> (with Richard O'Connor), <i>Beyond the Breast-Bottle Controversy</i>, <i>Food Culture in Southeast Asia</i> and <i>Food and Culture, a reader</i>, in addition to academic and advocacy articles on infant taste socialization, food as a human right, and green feeding. She is the bottle-fed mother of a breastfed daughter.</p>



Name	Dr Phil Baker
Title	Co-chair of the event and Research Fellow, Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN), Deakin University
Bio	Dr Phillip Baker is a Lecturer in Human Nutrition and Research Fellow at the Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition, Deakin University, in Melbourne, Australia. He has a PhD from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University. His research focuses on understanding the drivers and dynamics of global food systems change, and the implications for human and planetary health. His recent work covers the global rise of ultra-processed foods, the political economy of food systems including the power of transitional corporations, and understanding the determinants of worldwide changes in infant and young child nutrition. He is currently leading a large multi-country study funded by the World Health Organization on the political economy of first-food systems. Dr Baker teaches high-enrolling units on food policy and regulation, and international nutrition, and supervises six PhD students on related topics.
Name	Arun Gupta
Title	Central Coordinator, Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)
Bio	Dr. Arun Gupta, a pediatrician in public service, founded the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) in 1991. Over nearly 30 years, BPNI has played key role in strengthening national policies to promote, protect and support breastfeeding, which has led to almost negligible growth of breast-milk substitutes. He has also written extensively on child nutrition and conflicts of interest and, in 2015, convened “Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest” (NAPi), http://www.napiindia.in/ , the group works on issues like Ultra-processed foods. Dr. Gupta has worked on policy analysis related to breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Part of this work involved conceptualizing and creating IBFAN’s World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) , a break-through tool to bring together key government, academic, and NGOs to identify gaps and generate action, and created a unique web repository of policy and programmes. His strong belief in the legal frameworks to protect public health has made significant impact in countries. Dr. Gupta coordinates BPNI and the South Asia part of International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), which is a 1998 Right Livelihood Award recipient. In 2001, the Dr. Gupta was named a Fellow of Indian Academy of Pediatrics. He is currently a member of the WHO’s global development group for guidelines on complementary feeding.



Name	Vandana Prasad
Title	Technical Advisor – Public Health Resource Society (PHRS), New Delhi
Bio	<p>Dr. Vandana Prasad (MBBS, MRCP-Pediatrics, MPH) is a community pediatrician and public health professional and has been engaged with the social sector for over twenty five years. Her main experience and expertise is in the area of malnutrition, health systems strengthening and child rights and she has many publications on these issues to her credit (available https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vandana_Prasad4/contributions).</p> <p>She has been a Joint National Convenor of People’s Health Movement-India (Jan Swasthya Abhiyan) and an active member of the Right to Food Campaign. Dr. Prasad has also served the Government of India as Member (Child Health), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. She is the founding Secretary, PHRS and has also contributed as its ED from time to time. She has been the National Convenor PHRN for over ten years from inception till 2020. Dr Prasad has been leading models for community-based-management of malnutrition and participatory learning and action with women’s groups in tribal/rural communities along with research and documentation as part of her organisational work as technical lead.</p>