

Our Global Breastfeeding World

A Joint Initiative - La Leche League and World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action

By Anne Devereux, LLLNZ alumna and current LLL Leader

I recently hosted Lactation Consultant Siti Norjinh Moin from Malaysia. We are members of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) www.waba.org.my. I am on the WABA International Advisory Council, and Norjinh is part of the Secretariat based in Malaysia. The WABA is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide.



Back: L. Anne, alumna Brylin Highton, Front: Norjinh, alumna Jill Allan

WE TALKED TOGETHER about the current work going on in establishing an LLLI/WABA initiative: initially to build up a database of Peer Counsellor Programmes (PCP) throughout the world, and to invite Peer Counsellor Programme Administrators (PCPA) to share their challenges, successes and contact details with the global secretary in Malaysia.

Over the past eighteen months, there have been discussions about the many curricula used in training breastfeeding peer counsellors (PC). Many entities have devised their own PC training courses but the plan now is to release a revised curriculum format in January 2016. As

funding for an LLLI programme Co-ordinator based at the LLLI office in Chicago became unavailable some years ago, it is a major step forward, now, to have a combined approach thus extending the efficacy of this valuable LLL outreach. Individuals and those involved in running Peer Counsellor Programmes are invited to share their contact details and curricula with Satnam at the new LLLI/WABA office satnam.kaur@waba.org.my. Satnam is responsible for developing and maintaining the database and correspondence for the updated PCP Train the Trainer Programme.

While LLLI wrote the original curriculum, many LLL

- entities found that they needed to modify the information and resources to better reflect national and local cultures, social settings and governmental strategies. All curricula are acceptable as long as the basic information is current and appropriate and that there is a willingness to include some additional material which more adequately reflects some social changes.

- Norjinah would like to see La Leche League established in her country and sees the PCP as one way of providing breastfeeding information while also introducing participants to what LLL is and how it works in a variety of settings. While in New Zealand, Norjinah was able to talk with the New Zealand Breastfeeding Authority when she was in Christchurch. She enjoyed spending a morning at a Dunedin Chapter Meeting and at the Breastfeeding Drop-In Centre (The Breast Room) where she observed mothers and babies calling in for help with breastfeeding problems. While she had more plans to learn about other aspects of New Zealand

culture, she unfortunately became very unwell and returned hurriedly to Malaysia where she was hospitalised.

Our times together were very special. It is always a privilege to be with like-minded women from other cultures and hear about their challenges and successes.

Once again LLL opened the door on another aspect of our global breastfeeding world with this opportunity to learn from each other how we can better help women, their babies and families. ♥

Carol Bartle, member of the LLLNZ Professional Advisory Board, is also part of the Code Compliance Task Force. Attendees at the Alumnae Reunion in Auckland last year may recall her hard-hitting talk to us entitled Last Rites for Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding Sustainability? The choreography and orchestration of a multi-million powdered production.

More gems from Nancy Mohrbacher

Breast Crawl

First described in 1987 by the Karolina Institute in Sweden, these pictures illustrate a phenomenon Nancy Mohrbacher referred to when discussing establishing a breastfeeding relationship. www.breastcrawl.org/science.shtml describes how a newborn babe placed on her mother's upper abdomen immediately after birth independently uses reflexive crawling and rooting actions to search for, find, and firmly latch on to the nipple – within the first 15 to 45 minutes of life.

