

April Blackwell IBCLC

April graduated as an IBCLC in 1985 and has been working as a lactation consultant and midwife ever since. She was a founding member of ALCA-VIC and helped to coordinate early Breastfeeding Seminars in Victoria.

April has also been involved with NMAA, now Australian Breastfeeding Association for many years. She was Group Leader of the East Malvern Group for three years and Coordinator of the Information Service for two years.

In 1994 she took up a position as Lactation Consultant at The Angliss Hospital in Upper Ferntree Gully in Victoria. Whilst there she set up the **Lactation Support Service** to assist with lactation and breastfeeding problems occurring after discharge from the post natal ward. This was also used by other hospitals, Maternal and Child Health Nurses, General Practitioners. Mothers could also self refer.

She then prepared the hospital to become “baby friendly”. Since the Angliss Hospital qualified as an accredited Baby Friendly Hospital it has been awarded this accreditation for the third time.

Over the fifteen years April has been at the Angliss Hospital, the number of lactation consultants has expanded from two to eighteen and it has been wonderful for her and for our mothers, babies and community to have the continuing input from these dedicated women.

April formed a **Breastfeeding Action Group** to facilitate the maintenance of the BFHI within the hospital and was also a member of the Liaison Group to discuss breastfeeding and lactation issues with other health professionals in the community.

April has also enjoyed working as a lactation consultant in private practice since 1985 and hopes to continue to do so for as long as possible.