



Gauteng Breastfeeding Forum

CONSTITUTION

(As amended)
18 July 2003

1. NAME

The name of the Forum is the Gauteng Breastfeeding Forum (herein after called the Forum).

2. AREA OF OPERATION

The area in which business will be carried out and in which contribution will be collected will be the Gauteng Province.

3. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Gauteng Breastfeeding Forum is an organisation representing groups and individuals who are committed and motivated to promote, protect and support breastfeeding in the Gauteng Province.

The objectives of the Forum are implemented through the activities of individuals and groups within the organisation.

The Gauteng Breastfeeding Forum believes that parents should be enabled to make informed decisions regarding the feeding method for their children, and to have access to health care systems, which are independent from commercial influences. The Gauteng Breastfeeding Forum works towards implementation of the *National* and International infant feeding standards held within the following initiatives:

- South African Breastfeeding Guidelines for Health Workers and appropriate amendments;
- International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and all subsequent World Assembly resolutions concerning infant and young child nutrition;
- Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding: The Special Role of Maternity Services;
- Innocenti Declaration on the Protecting, Promoting and Support of Breastfeeding;
- Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and
- Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To encourage mothers to **exclusively breastfeed** where possible for 6 months, and thereafter to continue breastfeeding while receiving appropriate and adequate complementary foods for up to two years of age or beyond.
- 4.2 To share up-to-date, evidence-based information to increase awareness of the importance of breastfeeding amongst health workers and public.
- 4.3 To lobby for appropriate breastfeeding facilities for mothers and babies in public and in work places over and above what is already stipulated in the Labour Act and Basic Conditions of Employment Act.
- 4.4 To advocate for change to improve the breastfeeding conditions for working mothers.
- 4.5 To encourage and support activities to correspond with World Breastfeeding Week themes.
- 4.6 To monitor and encourage adherence to the Code of Ethics for the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and relevant National policies.
- 4.7 To encourage and support training, education and research projects where possible.
- 4.8 To promote, encourage and support the implementation of MBFI.
- 4.9 To involve, encourage and give recognition to partners (e.g. fathers, boyfriends).

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Any individual or group interested in the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding in Gauteng shall be eligible for membership.
- 5.2 An annual subscription shall be levied, the members of the co-ordinating committee will determine the amount of which.
- 5.3 Voting members shall consist of:
 - 5.3.1 Organisations, groups, etc. shall hold one vote for each of the number of annual subscription fees paid.
 - 5.3.2 Individuals who have paid their subscription fees shall hold one vote.

- 5.4 Members of the Forum shall not be entitled to a proprietary right, title or claim interest in the property or assets of the Forum.
- 5.5 The powers and privileges of the members shall be as follows:
 - 5.5.1 Members who have paid their annual subscriptions shall be entitled to nominate and, where necessary, vote for members of the co-ordinating committee (as outlined in 6.1).
 - 5.5.2 Members shall receive minutes of Annual General Meeting, as well as any newsletters or other relevant information resulting from the meetings held by the Forum, with the objective of disseminating such information to the rest of their organisation or group, where applicable.
 - 5.5.3 Members may attend seminars and workshops held by the Forum at a reduced rate.
 - 5.5.4 Members are entitled to raise funds in the name of the Forum, for use by the Forum, in accordance with the regulations of the fundraising registration and under the auspices of the co-ordinating committee.
- 5.6 Relevant working groups may be formed according to the needs of the Forum, but all proposed activities and information for distribution must be submitted to the co-ordinating committee for approval.

6. CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The affairs of the forum shall be managed by a co-ordinating committee consisting of not less than 5 (five) members. The members of the co-ordinating committee will be elected by nomination at each annual general meeting of the Forum. Should more than 12 (twelve) nominations be received, then the members will be elected by voting.
- 6.2 The co-ordinating committee will delegate the following portfolios: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and other members.
- 6.3 Members of the co-ordinating committee can remain in their positions for 2 (two) years without re-election, thereafter they can stand for nomination and re-election.
- 6.4 If a position on the co-ordinating committee shall become vacant before the Annual General Meeting, the remaining members may nominate a replacement.

- 6.5 The powers and duties of the co-ordinating committee shall be as follows:
- 6.5.1 To operate a current and/or savings account at a bank or building society in the name of the Forum.
 - 6.5.2 To raise funds for use by the Forum in order to achieve the aims and objectives as set out in this constitution.
 - 6.5.3 To ensure that the Forum is registered and recognised in accordance with any relevant statute, law, by-law or regulation of the government, provincial authority or local authority.
 - 6.5.4 To provide a means for the dissemination of information and exchange of views between members of the Forum.
- 6.6 No member of the co-ordinating committee shall have a direct or indirect interest of benefit from any contract, which the committee may conclude with any company.
- 6.7 Paid officials of the Forum may serve on the co-ordinating committee in an advisory capacity, but shall have no voting rights.

7. MEETINGS

- 7.1 Ordinary meetings:
Shall be 3-4 times per year and when there is a need.
- 7.2 Annual General Meetings:
Shall be held each year and shall take place no more than three months after the end of the financial year (see 8.2.).
- 7.3 Special General Meetings:
May be convened by the co-ordinating committee during the course of the year, should the need arise.
- 7.4 Quorum:
A quorum at a meeting of the Forum shall be half the number of the voting members plus one. If there is no quorum present at an annual general or special meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned for 5 (five) minutes and then the representation present at such an adjourned meeting shall constitute a quorum.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1 The co-ordinating committee of the Forum shall keep or cause to be kept proper books and record as required by the Fundraising

Act (Act 107 of 1978) and shall render all returns as required by the Act as and when required.

- 8.2 The financial year-end shall be the 31 May of each year.
- 8.3 Should the services of a fundraiser be made use of for the collection of contributions, the expenses (remuneration and/or commission included) may not exceed 40% of the total turnover of the collection.
- 8.4 Funds available for investment may be invested only with registered financial institutions as defined in section 1 of the Financial Institutions (Investment of Funds) Act, 1984 or in the acquisition of services listed on a licensed stock exchange as defined in the Stock Exchange Control Act, 1985.
- 8.5 All property shall be registered in the name of the Forum.
- 8.6 No competition, contest, game scheme, arrangement or system in connection with which any prize may be won shall be conducted or caused to be conducted by the Forum unless an authority in terms of any other Act has been obtained beforehand.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 9.1 This constitution shall be tabled and amended with the approval of not less than two-thirds of the voting members of the Forum present and voting at an annual general meeting, special meeting or normal meeting provided that:
 - The members of the co-ordination committee are in possession of the proposed changes to the constitution and have had at least two weeks to peruse the changes;
 - Members are notified at least 14 days in advance of such a meeting and
 - Changes are discussed at such a meeting before voting takes place.
- 9.2 Amendments to the constitution must be submitted to the Director of Fundraising for approval.

10. DISSOLUTION OF THE FORUM

- 10.1 The Forum may be dissolved if at least two-thirds of the voting members present and voting at a general meeting convened for the purpose of considering such a matter are in favour of dissolution.

- 10.2 Not less than 21 (twenty one) days notice shall be given of such a meeting and the notice convening the meeting shall clearly state that the question of dissolution of the Forum and its assets will be considered.
- 10.3 If there is no quorum at such a meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned for not less than one week and the members then attending such an adjourned meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- 10.4 If upon dissolution of the organisation there remain any assets whatsoever after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, such assets shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members, but be given to other organisation/s. Such organisations shall preferably have similar objectives, shall be authorised in terms of the Fundraising Act of 1978 to collect contributions, and be decided by the members at the general meeting at which it was decided to dissolve the Forum. In default of such a decision, this may be decided by the Director of Fundraising.

11. GLOSSARY

Groups - This shall exclude any person and/or groups with a conflict of interest.

These amendments to this constitution are in accordance with instructions issued by the Director of Fundraising on 07-03-1996 (ref. 01 10124 1 000 0).

The constitution was accepted by the members of a meeting of the Forum present at a meeting held in Johannesburg on 12 March 2004.

Signed:

Brenda Campbell
Chairlady

Brenda Pierce
Treasurer

Marietjie Bodenstein
Secretary