



POLICY on MANUFACTURERS of INFANT FORMULA

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE, UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Resolution 93.37.5

93.37.5 The Standing Committee resolved to:

- a) note that from 1977 the churches in the United States were very much involved in the initiation of the initial boycott of Nestles products and the formulation of the WHO Code for the marketing of breastmilk substitutes;
- b) endorse the principles of the WHO Code and the UNICEF Baby Friendly Hospital initiative;
- c) deplore all the activities that undermine optimal breastfeeding especially those that promote the purchase or use of infant formula, follow-up milks, feeding bottles, teats and any other products that replace breast milk;
- d) call on all baby formula manufacturers to comply with the WHO Code for the marketing of breast milk substitutes and thus end the promotion of breast milk substitutes by means of free and subsidised supplies to hospitals and maternity wards;
- e) call on the Australian Government to implement legislation that complies with the WHO Code including a ban on advertising as called for in the code;
- f) note the claims that Nestle, Wyeth and Mead Johnson have consistently violated the WHO code and therefore:
 - i. continue the dialogue with these companies with the purpose of putting pressure on them to comply with the code;
 - ii. ask the Social Responsibility and Justice Committee to circulate to all parishes a kit of materials outlining the continuing violations of the WHO code by the companies, seeking the cooperation of the parishes and members of the church to write to the companies asking them to comply with the WHO code, and indicating that Standing Committee is considering a boycott;
 - iii. ask the Social Responsibility and Justice Committee to continue to liaise with the churches and the International Baby Food Action Network in monitoring the responses of the companies;
 - iv. ask the Social Responsibility and Justice Committee to continue talking with the trade unions about the issues related to a boycott;
 - v. ask for a report to the next meeting of Standing Committee on the progress that has been made;

- g) indicate to Nestles, Wyeth and Mead Johnson that if sufficient progress has not been made by September 1993 to totally comply with the Code then the Standing Committee will consider implementing a boycott of products of the offending companies.