

**Submission: Guidance for
Pasteurised Donor Human
Milk Banks**



New Zealand
Speech-language
Therapists' Association
*Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika
Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa*

To: agribble@allenandclarke.com

From: New Zealand Speech-language
Therapists' Association (NZSTA)

Date: 14th May 2025

Feedback on Draft Guidance for Pasteurised Donor Human Milk Banks

The New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA) welcomes this draft guidance and supports the establishment and equitable provision of pasteurised donor human milk (PDHM) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Speech-language therapists (SLTs) are key members of multidisciplinary teams in neonatal, paediatric, and early intervention settings. They assess and manage infant swallowing and feeding and support whānau through complex feeding journeys.

We are particularly encouraged by the document's focus on health equity, whānau-centred care, and the importance of wraparound lactation support. SLTs frequently work with babies who are preterm, medically fragile, or experiencing feeding difficulties, and we see first-hand the positive impact of breastmilk—whether mother's own or donor—on neurodevelopmental outcomes and whānau wellbeing.

NZSTA recommends that SLTs be explicitly recognised within the guidance as part of the multidisciplinary workforce involved in safe feeding and transition planning for infants receiving PDHM. We also encourage consideration of SLT involvement in governance and quality assurance processes within milk bank services.

Finally, we support the call for nationally consistent access to PDHM, and highlight the need for investment in workforce capacity—across all relevant professions—to support sustainable and culturally responsive implementation.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Smolloy".

Siobhan Molloy
Executive Director
New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (NZSTA)

www.speechtherapy.org.nz | admin@speechtherapy.org.nz