



## CORRESPONDENCE

### Letter to the Editor for “The lactation and chestfeeding/breastfeeding information, care and support needs of trans and non-binary parents: An integrative literature review”

#### Dear Editors,

This article includes several unqualified statements, e.g.: “Not all people who breastfeed/chestfeed are women” and “Unchallenged trans-exclusionary services can foster the assumption that all people who come to PHCPs [Perinatal Healthcare Providers] will be female”.

To support understanding, a clear definition of sex, and a qualifying statement noting terms such as “women” and “female” were being used in a gendered (as opposed to a sexed) sense (Gribble et al., 2022). Chestfeeding, an undefined neologism is used throughout the article in a manner which makes it appear as a substitute term for breastfeeding, which is inaccurate. I found the omissions of definitions for key terms used within this paper confusing and open to misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

#### Declaration of Interest

The author declares that there are no conflicts of interest.

#### Reference

Gribble, K. D., Bewley, S., Bartick, M. C., Mathisen, R., Walker, S., Gamble, J., Bergman, N. J., Gupta, A., Hocking, J. J., & Dahlen, H. G. (2022). Effective Communication About Pregnancy, Birth, Lactation, Breastfeeding and Newborn Care: The Importance of Sexed Language. *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*, 3, Article 818856. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgwh.2022.818856>

Yours sincerely,

Robin Jones<sup>A,B</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Corresponding author: [elliesmum16@gmail.com](mailto:elliesmum16@gmail.com)

<sup>B</sup> MHealSc (Bioethics), BM, RM

Published online July 2024

Jones, R. (2024). Letter to the Editor for “The lactation and chestfeeding/breastfeeding information, care and support needs of trans and non-binary parents: An integrative literature review” by Gargiulo-Welch et al., with author response. *New Zealand College of Midwives Journal*, 60, Article 246005. <https://doi.org/10.12784/nzcomjnl59.2023.6.47-55-ltr-246005> © 2024 New Zealand College of Midwives | Te Kāreti o ngā Kaiwhakawhānau ki Aotearoa. ISSN 1178-3893

## Author response to the Letter to the Editor for “The lactation and chestfeeding/breastfeeding information, care and support needs of trans and non-binary parents: An integrative literature review”

We believe the statement describing our use of trans and non-binary inclusive language for the review and the addition of a glossary provide context and transparency for the reader. We draw your attention back to this statement and to definitions in the glossary, particularly to Cis, Cis-normative, and Gender.

Sarita Gargiulo-Welsh<sup>A,B</sup>, George Parker<sup>C</sup>, Suzanne Miller<sup>B</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Corresponding author: [gargisr1@student.op.ac.nz](mailto:gargisr1@student.op.ac.nz)

<sup>B</sup> Otago Polytechnic – Te Pūkenga, Aotearoa New Zealand

<sup>C</sup> Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

### EDITORIAL COMMENT

In alignment with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Recommendations (2023), the New Zealand College of Midwives Journal | Te Hautaka o Te Kāreti o ngā Kaiwhakawhānau ki Aotearoa has adopted the Sex and Gender Equity In Research (SAGER) Guidelines (Heidari et al., 2016) for manuscripts submitted in 2024. The SAGER guidelines provide recommendations to promote equity in research and internationally used definitions of sex, gender and gender identity to support this aim. The Journal accepts a glossary in an article if alternative definitions are preferred by manuscript authors.

### References

Heidari, S., Babor, T., De Castro, P., Tort, S., & Curno, M. (2016). Sex and Gender Equity in Research: rationale for the SAGER guidelines and recommended use. *Research Integrity and Peer Review*, 1, Article 2. <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/sager-guidelines/>  
International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (2023). *Recommendations*. <https://icmje.org/recommendations/>