



IBLCE is 25: time to celebrate!

Ellen McIntyre, Ilse Bichler, Anna Utter, Karolyn Vaughan

Assoc professor Ellen McIntyre
Primary Health Care Research & Information Service
Discipline of General Practice
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100
Adelaide, SA, 5001
Australia
ellen.mcintyre@flinders.edu.au
Phone no. +61 8 7221 8536

Biography

Assoc Professor Ellen McIntyre from Flinders University in South Australia, leads a team that generates, manages and shares information to improve primary health care in Australia. She has been a breastfeeding counsellor since 1983 and an IBCLC since 1989 and conducts research on breastfeeding promotion and support. Ellen is the current Chair of the IBLCE Board.

Abstract

The International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) credential, established in 1985 to recognise competency in lactation consulting, has been promoted as a valuable and most appropriate addition to many health professional credentials such as midwives, general practitioners, and child health nurses.

The aim of this presentation is to outline (1) key features of this credential that indicate its usefulness in assessing competence and (2) how well this credential has been taken up around the world.

Historical documents and annual statistical exam reports from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) were analysed to address development and longitudinal progression of this credential both in terms of improving its quality and the rate of uptake by breastfeeding supporters and health professionals. Peer reviewed journals were searched for evidence of the impact of IBCLCs on breastfeeding.

The IBLCE certification program for IBCLCs has been continuously accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 1988. To date, the IBCLC credential is held by over 19,000 people around the world.

Studies exploring the impact of IBCLCs on breastfeeding have shown an increase in frequency and/or duration of breastfeeding, compared to usual care without IBCLC involvement.

At just 25 years, the IBCLC credential is succeeding in improving breastfeeding around the world. It is time to celebrate!