



**LA LECHE LEAGUE NEW ZEALAND**  
**PRESS RELEASE 21 APRIL 2010**

**LLNZ PROMOTES SAFE BABY WEARING**

New Zealand mothers are being urged not to abandon safe baby wearing using appropriate slings following the recall of more than a million “bag” slings in the United States and Canada.

Three infant deaths have been linked to the design which bends the baby’s neck, covers its face and can restrict the airway.

La Leche League New Zealand says that the deaths are tragic. However most slings are safe and advantageous when used appropriately. LLL spokesperson Alison Stanton says baby slings can be an excellent way for mothers to carry their babies. “Safe slings are great parenting tools. They keep babies relaxed, happy and calm. Babies’ biological need for body contact and motion is met. In addition they can sleep anywhere and mothers can get out and about attending to the many other jobs they have, knowing their babies are secure and content.

To date no babies are reported to have died while being carried in slings in New Zealand. “However it’s important to remember that babies must have clear faces and fresh air wherever they are sleeping,” says Ms Stanton.

“In a sling, babies need to be held high, upright and securely against the parent,” she adds.

The specific brand of bag sling linked to the deaths is called Infantino – Slingrider. Fewer than ten of these slings have been sold in New Zealand. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs is currently reviewing regulations regarding slings.

Families can get information about safe baby-wearing at La Leche League meetings and from other independent sources such as Slingbabies NZ.

/ENDS

La Leche League is an international non-governmental not-for-profit non-sectarian organisation whose mission is to help mothers breastfeed through mother-to-mother support, encouragement, information and education; and to promote a better understanding of breastfeeding as an important element in the healthy development of the baby and mother. There are around 50 groups across New Zealand with over 150 accredited Leaders supporting thousands of women every year. [www.lalecheleague.org.nz](http://www.lalecheleague.org.nz)

**For further information, please contact:**

Lisa Manning, LLLNZ  
Tel 07 826 4500 or 021 794 198,  
[lisa@apple.geek.nz](mailto:lisa@apple.geek.nz)