

FINDINGS FROM THE 2019 SENATE INQUIRY INTO Effective approaches to prevention, diagnosis and support for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

FINDING: FASD in Aboriginal Australia is a reflection of colonisation

“The nurture and care of children is at the heart of Aboriginal culture. For tens of thousands of years, our diverse peoples raised healthy, resilient and creative children. Today, many of our families still do.

However, contemporary Aboriginal families have been deeply affected by the processes of colonisation

including:

dispossession and impoverishment;

the forcible removal of children and its intergenerational effects; the suppression of culture and language; and the experience of racism and discrimination.

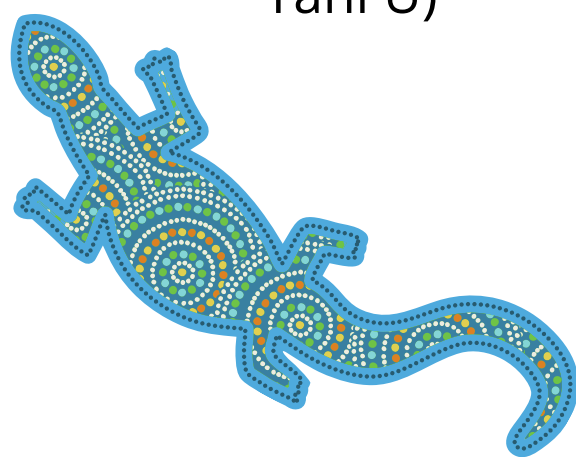
Aboriginal families continue to live with these effects of colonisation which challenge their capacity to care for their children.

It is in this context that the high levels of alcohol use in contemporary Aboriginal communities should be seen.”
(Central Australian Aboriginal Congress)

“There is a history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities taking leadership in this [FASD] space, especially women.”
(Australian Human Rights Commission)



“Communities also need to be involved in the implementation planning and ongoing delivery of these initiatives to ensure cultural and contextual fit. This ensures community ownership, commitment and sustainability.” (Jandu Yani U)



Recommendation

“The focus on FASD and Aboriginal communities by policymakers gives the false impression the FASD is an ‘indigenous problem’. Wider population screening, diagnosis and data collection is essential to elucidating the more accurate, cross-cultural challenge of FASD.”
(Jandu Yani U)



Read the quoted senate submissions here:
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/FetalAlcoholSpectrumDi/Submissions

