

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

FINDING: FASD is costly to society

"FASD is associated with significant social and economic burden with this including loss of productivity, disability and higher rates of premature death.

The cost to the Australian health care and welfare systems is likely to be in the order of billions of dollars. This is supported by the fact that FASD is a lifelong condition associated with a multitude of comorbidities, many of which are known to increase a person's access to acute and chronic health care." (Australian College of Midwives)

"Even utilising an underestimated FASD prevalence rate of 2% would put the costs at over \$AUD16 billion per year."

(The University of Queensland)

"Given there is no cure, and existing therapies are in the development stage, this makes FASD one of the most expensive preventable diagnoses across the lifespan."

(FASD Research Australia)

"Alcohol consumption during pregnancy cannot be a women's only issue.

Family relationships, social, economic, education and overall health and well-being are also factors that may influence behaviour. A health care prevention approach must address this intersection between women, family and community to effectively support behaviour change. "

(The Alcohol and Drug Foundation)

Recommendation

"Effective responses must be directed at the whole community, creating generational change and shifting societal norms about alcohol consumption to eradicate FASD." (Danila Dilba Health Service)

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

