

FINDINGS FROM THE 2020 SENATE INQUIRY INTO Effective approaches to prevention, diagnosis and support for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

FINDING: FASD diagnosis is complex and resources are limited

“Timely and accurate diagnosis of FASD is an important aspect of prevention efforts. The required specialist multidisciplinary diagnostic services currently remain few and far between, so that FASD in Australia continues to be underdiagnosed.”

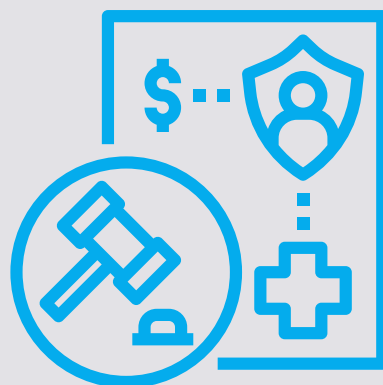
(Murdoch Children's Research Institute)

“Effective diagnosis of FASD requires an integrated system of primary, secondary and tertiary health services.”
(NSW Government)

“The tertiary (full multidisciplinary team) approach to diagnosis, whilst highly beneficial, is only accessible to a small percentage of the population, is time consuming and not scalable.”
(Gold Coast Hospital - Child Development Service)

“Health resources are unable to meet the current demand for assessments.”
(NSW Local Drug Action Team)

Recommendations



- “Develop protocols to ensure people at-risk of having FASD are screened when they come into contact with government services including criminal justice, foster care and child safety systems.” (Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association)

- “Future initiatives for FASD screening and diagnosis should be community determined, led and driven. Access to FASD screening and diagnostic services, particularly in regional and remote communities, is limited, inconsistent and currently exist within the context of non-Indigenous mainstream services.”
(Public Health Association of Australia)



- “Routinely ask all women of childbearing age and pregnant women about their alcohol use using a standardised tool.” (WA Government)

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

