

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

FINDING: FASD intervention is most successful when it occurs early and takes a global approach

“Barriers that may prevent women receiving accurate, timely and culturally/ethnically appropriate information or advice on alcohol and pregnancy:

- Disengagement with the healthcare service and failure to access antenatal care
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Health care professionals who find the topic of alcohol use in pregnancy too difficult or awkward to raise.
- Health care professionals who are concerned that discussing alcohol use in pregnancy may cause women to feel judged and therefore be disinclined to access their service in future.
- Women not knowing where or how to access accurate help and advice
- Women experiencing fear of judgement or shame, fear of social isolation or fear of child protection involvement if they were to disclose alcohol use during pregnancy.”
(Golburn Valley Health)

“Women who are most likely to continue drinking during pregnancy are older and of higher socio-economic status, and they are the least likely to receive appropriate advice.” (FASD Research Australia)

“The best outcomes for children are likely to occur when there is good coordination between medical, educational and community services and other professionals involved in the child’s life.” (Emerging Minds)

“Essential to supporting a child with FASD, is empowering and supporting parents/carers and support networks of the child.” (Jandu Yani U)

Recommendations

“Educate medical professionals to identify, educate and support people who are pregnant or who are seeking to become pregnant.” (RANZCP)



Access to practical supports such as regular respite and also access to interventions that can support caregiver mental wellbeing and family functioning are important.” (The University of Queensland)

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

