

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

FINDING: The true prevalence of FASD in Australia is unknown

“Australia does not have sufficient data to reflect the true extent and prevalence of FASD. While there have been attempts to gather data, these are not likely to reflect the true extent. Without an understanding of the true prevalence, the costs both socially and financially are likely to continue being underestimated and even overlooked.”
(Australian College of Midwives)

“FASD is not routinely assessed or monitored and, as a consequence, the prevalence of FASD and its distribution in the community is largely unknown.” (WA Government)

“While a large percentage of women stopped consuming alcohol while pregnant, there is still a large section of the Australian community (*1 in four*) who continue to consume alcohol and are unaware of the dangers of consuming alcohol while pregnant.” (Alcohol Policy Coalition)

“It is critical that the prevalence of FASD is reliably determined across Australia and within communities at higher risk (identified initially from patterns of alcohol use) so that targeted strategies can be developed to prevent and diagnose FASD and so that appropriate management and support for people living with FASD can be costed, budgeted for and implemented.” (Gilbert + Tobin)

Recommendations



“Australian governments coordinate and fund a comprehensive research project aimed at ascertaining the extent of FASD in Australia.” (The Alcohol and Drug Foundation)

“A comprehensive multifaceted public education/awareness campaign that has two components - a focus on women and the general public and a component focused on health professionals.”
(Australian College of Midwives)



Read the quoted senate submissions here:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/FetalAlcoholSpectrumDi/Submissions

