

Newcastle LDAT – Make FASD History



Many hands project

Newcastle Juvenile Justice System

25 September 2018

Aims & Objectives

1. Ultimate goal to make FASD history in Newcastle
2. Focus on those areas evidence suggests highest priority
3. Focus on most vulnerable (restorative process)
4. Identify where Newcastle can make a difference
5. Effectively address issue of **cognitive impairment** in local JJS

Prerequisites

- Identification of and collaboration from all local stakeholders
- Inter agency/NGO buy-in and cooperation
- Leg work (LDAT small funds)
- Evidence based, not reinvent the wheel, avoid stigmatisation
- Harness Newcastle's strong sense of achievement and other attributes including personnel and resources (research, medical, community/welfare, justice, university etc)

Proposed action plan

- FASD prevention starts with **awareness**
- Workforce development of all local stakeholders is critical (WA model of care)
- Critical mass pool of FASD awareness spill-over benefits to broader community
- Achieve agreed common levels of awareness and potential cost savings and related efficiencies from existing programs

FASD awareness modules

1. What is FASD – magnitude of harms
2. Identifying cognitive impairment - manifestations of FASD given it's a 'spectrum' of disorders
3. Implications of cognitive impairment including victim, offender & witness
4. How should we respond in JJS to kids (carers?) suspected with an cognitive impairment
5. Creating a (model) diagnostic referral pathway

Identifying existing barriers to timely diagnosis

- Lack of workforce awareness in some sectors
- Significant local health resource gaps (lobby capacity of LDAT)
- Exchange of vital inter agency information
- Existing lack of recording of alcohol use patterns and suspected impairments
- Historically no local unifying force – silo free zone

Acknowledge importance of early warning

- GPs, Pre school, infants, primary early secondary schooling (average age first JJS contact 12.5 yrs)
- Police usually have numerous contacts before this time
- Earlier detection of cognitive impairment greater opportunity to modify some behaviours
- Essential GP involvement in project
- Dr Webber's Health pathway

Summary of LDAT 'Many hands' project

- A 'model' project to achieve FASD awareness workforce development across all local stakeholders
- Establish NSW Pilot for cognitive impairment diagnostic diversionary pathway similar to NSW adult justice trial
- Address critical information flows between stakeholders
- Incorporate early warning stakeholder sentinels within project
- Driven by this **community reference panel**

THANK YOU



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Our Town's Juvenile Justice System

Many hands project

Tony Brown
Chairperson
Newcastle LDAT

