



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

**Senate inquiry into effective approaches to prevention and diagnosis of FASD and strategies for optimising life outcomes for people with FASD**

Issue date: 11 September 2019

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee is conducting an inquiry into effective approaches to prevention and diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), strategies for optimising life outcomes for people with FASD and supporting carers, and the prevalence and management of FASD, including in vulnerable populations, in the education system, and in the criminal justice system.

The committee will be examining the level of community awareness of risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and the prevalence of FASD as well as the current approaches to diagnose and support people with FASD.

The Chair of the committee, Senator Siewert said 'this inquiry will also look at the approaches to FASD in vulnerable populations, including children in foster and state care, migrant communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities'.

**Call for submissions**

The committee is seeking submissions from a wide range of people, including families, carers and communities affected by FASD. The committee has requested that submissions be received by 29 November 2019.

If you would like to make a submission you may find it helpful to read the guide to making a submission available on the Senate website: [Preparing a submission to an inquiry](#).

If you require any special arrangements to enable you to make a submission to the inquiry, or if you have questions, or need more time to write your submission, please contact the Community Affairs secretariat.

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, is available on the committee website: [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca).

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**DATE REFERRED**

9 September 2019

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**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE**

29 November 2019

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**NEXT HEARINGS**

To be advised

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**REPORTING DATE**

June 2020

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Senator Rachel Siewert (Chair)  
Senator Wendy Askew (Deputy Chair)  
Senator Stirling Griff  
Senator Hollie Hughes  
Senator Malarndirri McCarthy  
Senator Deborah O'Neill  
Senator Anne Urquhart

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**CONTACT THE COMMITTEE**

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**Media enquiries:** Office of Senator Rachel Siewert, Committee Chair on (02) 6277 3587  
**For background information:** contact the committee secretariat.

## Attending a public hearing

The committee will hold hearings as part of this inquiry so that it can hear from people who have relevant experience or expertise.

The dates and locations for the committee's hearings will be published on the inquiry website.

Most committee hearings are held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio and video of each hearing will also be broadcast live on the internet: [www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

Further information about what to expect when attending a Senate committee hearings is available on the Senate website: [Attending a public hearing](#)

## Inquiry Terms of Reference

Effective approaches to prevention and diagnosis of FASD, strategies for optimising life outcomes for people with FASD and supporting carers, and the prevalence and management of FASD, including in vulnerable populations, in the education system, and in the criminal justice system - with particular reference to:

- (a) the level of community awareness of risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy;
- (b) the adequacy of the health advice provided to women planning a pregnancy, pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding, about the risks of alcohol consumption;
- (c) barriers that may prevent women receiving accurate, timely and culturally/ethnically appropriate information and advice on alcohol and pregnancy;
- (d) provision of diagnostic services in Australia including capacity, training, integration and diagnostic models in current use;
- (e) the prevalence and nature of co-occurring conditions and of misdiagnosis of FASD;
- (f) international best practice in preventing, diagnosing and managing FASD;
- (g) awareness of FASD in schools, and the effectiveness of systems to identify and support affected students;
- (h) the prevalence of, and approaches to, FASD in vulnerable populations, including children in foster and state care, migrant communities and Indigenous communities;
- (i) the recognition of, and approaches to, FASD in the criminal justice system and adequacy of rehabilitation responses;
- (j) the social and economic costs of FASD in Australia, including health, education, welfare and criminal justice;
- (k) access, availability and adequacy of FASD support available through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, including access to effective and early intervention services for individuals diagnosed with FASD;
- (l) support for adults with FASD and for parents and carers of children with FASD;
- (m) progress on outstanding recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs report, *FASD: The Hidden Harm*, tabled on 29 November 2012;
- (n) the effectiveness of the National FASD Action Plan 2018-2028, including gaps in ensuring a nationally co-ordinated response and adequacy of funding;
- (o) the need for improved perinatal data collection and statistical reporting on FASD and maternal drinking; and
- (p) any other related matters.