



## ***A holistic approach: preventing and managing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder***

A public hearing to explore different aspects of preventing and managing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder will be held in Sydney this Friday (13 April 2012).

The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee will speak to health professionals who run a FASD-specific clinic at Westmead Hospital. The clinic facilitates the assessment, diagnosis and referral of babies suspected of having FASD.

Following this, the Committee will hold a roundtable of health professionals covering various topics such as guidelines for alcohol consumption, intervention strategies and standardized national antenatal screening for FASD.

Secondly, the Committee will explore issues of FASD sufferers who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The Committee is aware of the increasing trend of ‘criminalisation of care’ and the role of bail, and policing practices in relation to people with FASD.

The Committee will speak to foster parents about the challenges they face when caring for children with FASD. The Committee has received evidence which suggests that children with FASD may struggle with schooling and social interaction. However, as FASD is not a recognised disability, parents and carers of affected children are unable to access required funding, community and social services.

The Committee Chair, Graham Perrett MP said the Committee is interested in both preventing FASD and improving the lives of those affected.

“We know there are issues with getting an accurate diagnosis for a FASD affected child as well as accessing necessary support.”

Program: 9 am – 12:45 pm, Friday 13 April 2012  
NSW Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney

To listen to the proceedings live on your computer, please visit  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

A transcript of the proceedings will also be made available online next week.

Information about the Committee’s inquiry is available on the FASD inquiry website at  
[www.aph.gov.au/fasd](http://www.aph.gov.au/fasd).

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312.

**For all other information**, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs:**

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