



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders report to be tabled Thursday 29 November

The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee has completed its inquiry into Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and is expected to table its report on Thursday 29 November in Parliament.

The Committee received over 90 submissions and held more than a dozen public hearings around the country during the course of the inquiry. The inquiry examined FASD prevention strategies, intervention needs and management issues.

The Committee Chair, Graham Perrett MP, said that FASD is an entirely preventable but incurable consequence of prenatal alcohol exposure. Preventing FASD is the key, but measures must be put in place to assist and support those who are born with the life-long condition.

The report addresses alcohol warning labels; the current national guidelines that promote not drinking as the safest option for women who are pregnant or considering pregnancy; FASD awareness; diagnostic services; and Government support for people with FASD.

The report contains recommendations for a national strategy to prevent, diagnose and manage FASD. 'We don't know the true rates of FASD in Australia, but we are convinced that this is an important public health matter that should be managed consistently across all state and territories,' said Mr Perrett.

'The social, emotional and financial costs of FASD to individuals, their families and the community are devastating,' he added.

The Committee will hold a press conference on Thursday 29 November at 3.30pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra, to outline the findings of the report.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0434058200, .
For advice on timing of tabling, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs:**

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