



Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre

Media Release – New review of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder says more work is needed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

2 June 2021

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre has published a [Review of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder \(FASD\) among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#). The review states that FASD is a preventable, lifelong disability. FASD disproportionately affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, however, there are limited prevalence statistics available in the mainstream Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

The review explores the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in preventing FASD and proposes that programs that work best for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are those that are done with, for and by the communities and their leaders. Authors Sharynne Hamilton, Michael Doyle and Carol Bower, recommend that, where possible, federal and state governments should choose to invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations to develop their own evidence-based, fit-for-community FASD prevention, intervention, and management strategies.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew says, "We were delighted to commission this important review and partner with the authors to provide a comprehensive and sensitive review of the evidence around FASD with clear recommendations for future action".

Men are largely absent in FASD interventions. Co-author Michael Doyle says, "There is a need to involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in research to understand the role they can play in the prevention, treatment and management of FASD".

Accompanying the review is a [short video](#) of key points from the review, a [summary version](#) of the review with infographics and a [factsheet](#).

-ends-

Spokesperson: Professor Neil Drew - HealthInfoNet Director

Ph: 08 9370 6155 Mobile: 0418 901 468 Email: n.drew@ecu.edu.au

Lead author: Sharynne Hamilton - Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Aboriginal Health, Telethon Kids Institute. Ph: 08 6319 1232 Email: Sharynne.Hamilton@telethonkids.org.au

Media contact: Tara Hoyne – HealthInfoNet Development & Marketing Manager

Ph: 08 9370 6109 Email: t.hoyne@ecu.edu.au

More information: The AOD Knowledge Centre web resource provides online access to a comprehensive collection of relevant, evidence-based, current and culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug knowledge-support and decision-support materials that can be used in the prevention, identification and management of alcohol and other drug use in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population <https://aodknowledgecentre.ecu.edu.au/>