

MEDIA RELEASE

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More funding for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

The National Alliance for Action on Alcohol (NAAA) welcomes the Federal Government's announcement on Wednesday of \$7.2million in new funding for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

The announcement coincides with the 2nd Australasian FASD Conference in Perth and follows the October announcement by the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation that government-developed pregnancy warning labels will be mandatory on all packaged alcoholic beverages.

FASD is the leading cause of preventable developmental disability in Australia. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can lead to lifelong harm including miscarriage, still births, low birth weight and FASD.

"It's good to see the Federal Government investing additional funding to FASD given its importance and preventability", said NAAA Co-chair Jane Martin welcoming the announcement.

Anne Russell NAAA Executive Committee member and founder of the Russell Family Fetal Alcohol Disorders Association said "sixty percent of babies born in Australia are at risk for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. This statistic isn't meant to cause consternation and anxiety, it's a reality and it's upsetting to think that so many children are at risk for this terrible condition,"

"As a parent to two children with FASD additional funding for education, diagnostic and support services and FASD resources will help prevent the occurrence of FASD and enhance the lives of children and their families with FASD."

For further information/comment:

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