

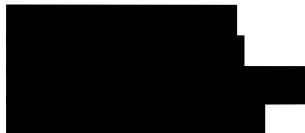
From: Jane Montz

Sent: Tuesday, 8 May 2012 9:41 AM

Subject: Inquiry into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

- The NT has the highest rate of alcohol consumption in Australia.
- 2/3 of all domestic violence in the NT is alcohol related.
- Alcohol in pregnancy is a known cause of Intellectual disability; FASD is preventable.
- Alcohol exposure on the unborn child can affect the body, growth, facial features, organs, skeletal system, sensory system, central nervous system and the brain, with deficits in attention, intellectual functioning, learning, verbal memory, executive functioning and psychosocial functioning, and academic skills. Children may have cognitive impairment, physical, learning, behavioural, or developmental difficulties, gross and fine motor delays and language delays, as well as being at risk of developing mental health disorders.
- Some children continue to experience further exposure to alcohol during breast feeding, and then again in their teens, all while their brains and bodies are still developing.
- Generally only children with the facial features receive a diagnosis of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.
- FASD is only being diagnosed by a handful of doctors. A screening and diagnostic tool is needed.
- Warning labels on alcoholic beverages must be made mandatory.
- Educators and teachers need more training opportunities to increase awareness and skill level to accommodate children's needs.
- The community and families need more education and support about FASD.
- The impact on the justice system is far reaching as many who are incarcerated have been affected by FASD.
- Prevention and early identification are needed.
- Community awareness programs and support to individuals and families are necessary as the effects of FASD are life-long.

Jane Montz



[Every Child, Every Day](#) - improving student enrolment, attendance and participation is everybody's responsibility and everyone's business.