

# Alcohol, Pregnancy and FASD Newsletter

## November 2011



## New Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Website 'Alcohol, Pregnancy and FASD'

<http://www.alcoholpregnancy.childhealthresearch.org.au>

The new website provides general information on Alcohol and Pregnancy and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in addition to the following:

- Current Institute projects on FASD
- Previous projects
- Contributions to policy and practice
- Other Alcohol and Pregnancy and FASD projects in Australia
- Alcohol and pregnancy publications involving Institute researchers
- Profiles on our Institute researchers
- Alcohol and pregnancy resources
- Community participation
- Alcohol Guidelines and 'What is a standard drink?'
- Information from parents and children on living with a child with a FASD
- Where to go for assistance
- Links to sources of Australian and international information for parents/carers, teachers, health professionals and researchers

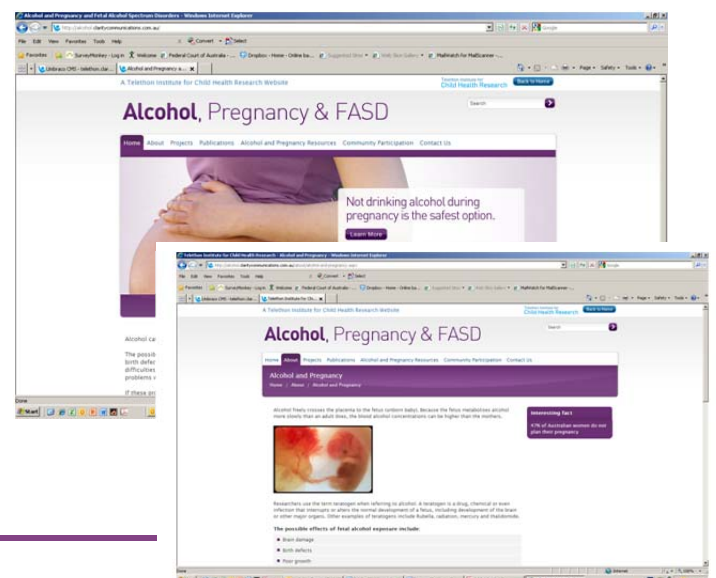
If you know of any other projects and would like to let everyone know what you are doing in the field of 'Alcohol, Pregnancy and FASD' please email us at [fasd@icmr.uwr.edu.au](mailto:fasd@icmr.uwr.edu.au) or phone Heather Jones, Manager FASD Projects on 08 9489 7724.

The previous Institute websites 'Alcohol and Pregnancy' and 'FASD Project' will be de-activated within a few months, however a re-direction from these sites to the new site will be in operation. We look forward to hearing from you on the format and content of the new site. See page 2 for information on the resources previously available from the 'alcohol and pregnancy' website.

~~<http://www.icmr.uwa.edu.au/alcoholandpregnancy>  
[www.icmr.uwa.edu.au/fasdproject](http://www.icmr.uwa.edu.au/fasdproject)~~

**REMEMBER THE NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS**

<http://www.alcoholpregnancy.childhealthresearch.org.au>



## Alcohol and Pregnancy Resources for Health Professionals

The Alcohol and Pregnancy Resources for Health Professionals previously published and printed by the Institute are now printed by the Drug and Alcohol Office. The content of these materials remains the same. Orders for resources can be placed through the on-line publication order system at <http://www.dohpackcentre.com.au/DOH/Login.aspx> There is no cost to order these materials.

Item code DAO 005 “Booklet for health professionals”



2011 Booklet for health professionals .j

Item code DAO 006 “Fact Sheet for health professionals”

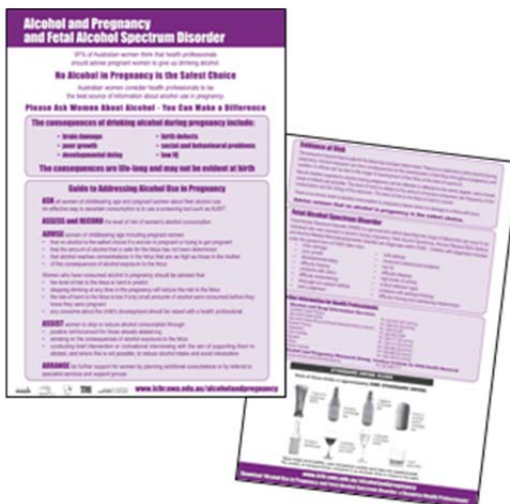


2011 Fact Sheet for health professionals .j

Item code DAO 007 “Wallet Card for women”

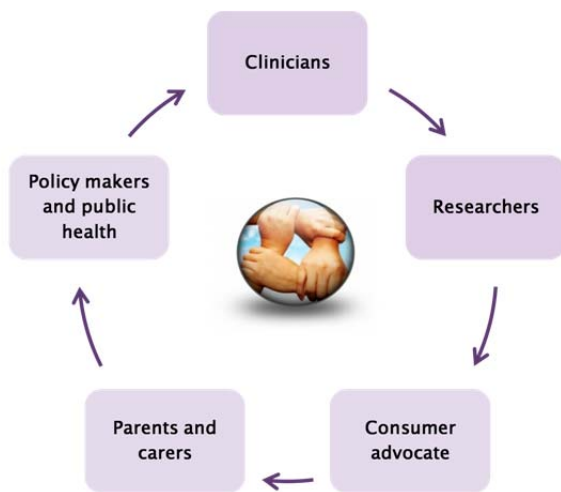


2011 Wallet card for women.pdf



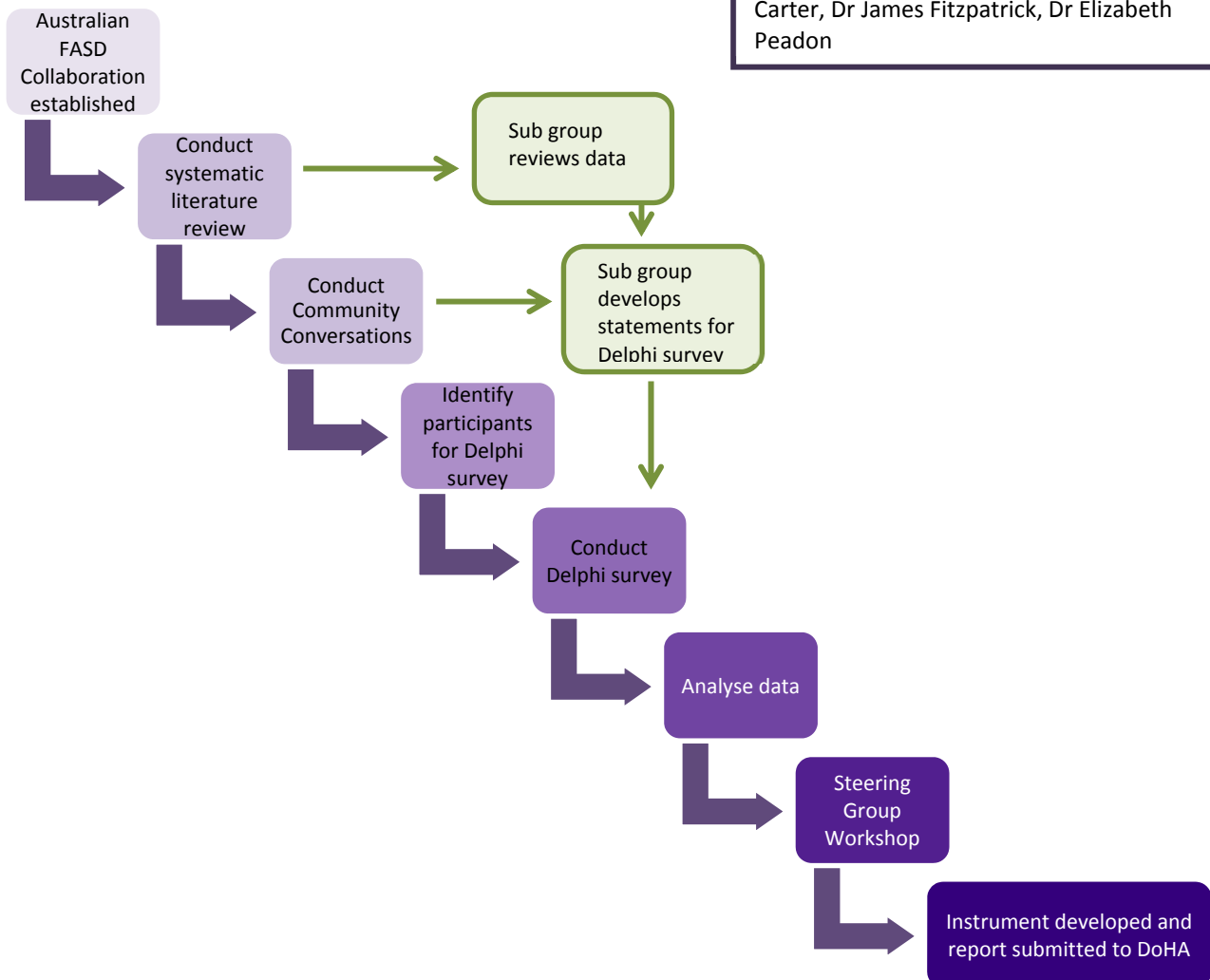
## Previous Project Update

### Australian FASD Collaboration: The Development of a Screening-Diagnostic Instrument for FASD in Australia



*Back row:* Assoc Prof Jane Halliday, Ms Sue Miers, Ms Laura Bond, Dr Colleen O’Leary, Assoc Prof Jane Latimer, Ms Elizabeth Russell  
*Middle row:* Dr Raewyn Mutch, Ms Jan Payne, Ms Heather D’Antoine, Ms Lorian Hayes, Ms Anne McKenzie, Dr Amanda Wilkins  
*Front row:* Dr Rochelle Watkins, Clinical Professor Carol Bower, Professor Elizabeth Elliott, Ms Heather Jones  
*Not in photo:* Dr Lucy Burns, Ms Maureen Carter, Dr James Fitzpatrick, Dr Elizabeth Peadon

### How did we do the study?



## Community Conversations

- ▶ A standard set of questions should be asked by health professionals of all women
- ▶ Parents/guardians/kinship carers should be asked to provide informed consent before screening and/or diagnosis for FASD
- ▶ Health professionals need education and training on FASD and how to speak to women about alcohol and pregnancy
- ▶ Prevention is the key to reducing the incidence of FASD

### Delphi Survey Participants

#### Gender

Female	74.8%
Male	25.2%

#### Country

Australia	92.2%
International	7.8%

#### State

ACT	1.1%
NT	5.6%
NSW	25.8%
SA	6.7%
TAS	3.4%
QLD	25.8%
WA	27.0%

### Delphi Survey Participants - Occupation

Paediatrician	43.7%
Allied health professional	14.6%
Nurse/midwife	10.7%
Psychiatrist	8.7%
General practitioner	6.8%
Clinical geneticist	4.9%
Other medical practitioner/specialist	3.9%
Health researcher	3.9%
Aboriginal health/community worker	2.9%



### Delphi Survey Participants – Location

Metropolitan	62.1%
Regional	31.1%
Rural	29.1%
Remote	25.2%

### Delphi Survey Participants – Experience in FASD

Years experience	Diagnosis	Contributing to diagnosis
≤ 5	30.2%	34.8%
6-10	23.3%	26.1%
≥ 11	46.5%	39.1%
<b>Completed specific training on FASD diagnosis</b>		<b>25.7%</b>



### Steering Group Workshop

At a 2 day workshop members of the Australian FASD Collaboration considered the outcomes from the literature review, community conversations and Delphi survey to develop an instrument for use in Australia.

The Australian FASD Collaboration submitted the final report to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing in September 2011. More detailed information on the outcomes of this project will be available from the new website in coming months.

## **New Alcohol, Pregnancy and FASD Projects at the Institute**

### **Interdisciplinary research on the knowledge, attitudes and practice of FASD within the WA criminal justice system**

The aim of this project is to:

- find out what people within the justice sector know about FASD, their attitudes towards children and adolescents who may have a disorder in the spectrum, and their current practices in dealing with FASD.
- identify the training and information needs relating to FASD within the justice system, so that people with FASD may receive appropriate consideration within the justice system and referral for appropriate services within and outside the justice system.

#### **Researchers**

##### Lead Investigator

- Dr Raewyn Mutch

##### Other Investigators

- Ms Heather Jones
- Clinical Professor Carol Bower

### **Prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Western Australia**

This study will use un-named information on all cases of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) notified to the Western Australian Register of Developmental Anomalies (WARDA), born in WA from 1980 to November 2010. Birth prevalence per 1000 births will be calculated by year of birth to examine trends over time. Prevalence ratios will be used to describe the demographic and clinical characteristics, such as maternal age, socio-economic status and place of residence, and age of the child when FAS was diagnosed.

#### **Researchers**

- Clinical Professor Carol Bower
- Dr Raewyn Mutch

### **Evaluation of information and support for carers and parents of children with a FASD**

This project aims to:

- evaluate currently available Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) resources and information for parents and foster carers
- evaluate currently available FASD resources and information for key government and non-government foster care and support agencies
- investigate specific information needs of parents and foster carers of children with a FASD

#### **Researchers**

##### Lead Investigator

- Dr Amanda Wilkins

##### Other Investigators

- Dr Raewyn Mutch
- Clinical Professor Carol Bower

**For further information on these projects please contact Heather Jones on 08 9489 7724 or email [fasd@ichr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:fasd@ichr.uwa.edu.au)**