

FASD Research Australia

# SUPPLEMENT

Publications & Projects 2016–2021

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**FASD** Research  
Australia

Centre of Research Excellence

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**Australian Government**

**National Health and Medical Research Council**



## Australian publications 2016- 2021 which relate to alcohol use in pregnancy or FASD and include FASD Research Australia Investigators and Team Members as authors

1. **Tsang TW**, Lucas BR, Olson HC, Pinto RZ, **Elliott EJ**. Prenatal alcohol exposure, FASD, and child behavior: a meta-analysis. *Pediatrics* 2016 Mar;137(3):e20152542.doi: 10.1542/peds.2015-2542
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3. **Bower C**, **Elliott EJ** on behalf of the Steering Group. Report to the Australian Government Department of health: "Australian Guide to the diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)" May 2016 (updated February 2020). Available from [here](#).
4. **Passmore HM**, **Giglia R**, **Watkins RE**, **Mutch RC**, Marriott R, Pestell C, **Zubrick SR**, Rainsford C, Walker N, **Fitzpatrick JP**, Freeman J, **Kippin N**, Safe B, **Bower C**. Study protocol for screening and diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) among young people sentenced to detention in Western Australia. *BMJ Open* 2016;6(6):e012184.
5. Doney R, Lucas BR, **Watkins RE**, **Tsang TW**, Sauer K, Howat P, **Latimer J**, **Fitzpatrick JP**, **Oscar J**, **Carter M**, **Elliott EJ**. Visual-motor integration, visual perception, and fine motor coordination in a population of children with high levels of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*. 2016 Aug 1;55:346–57.
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12. Fransquet PD, Hutchinson D, Olsson CA, Wilson J, Allsop S, Najman J, **Elliott EJ**, Mattick RP, Saffery R, Ryan J. Perinatal maternal alcohol consumption and methylation of the dopamine receptor DRD4 in the offspring: the Triple B study. *Environ Epigenet*. 2016 Dec;2(4):dvw023.
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## Books/ chapters 2016- 2021 that include FASD Research Australia Investigators and Team Members as authors

1. **Elliott EJ**, Andersson E. The Social and Economic Costs of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Prenatal Alcohol Consumption: FASD Prevention, Diagnosis and Early Intervention. Chapter 1. García-Algar and Ramón Mendoza (Eds.) 2020. pp1-32.
2. Look C, **Elliott EJ**. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Evidence, theory and current insights (Chapter 11). In: The Routledge Handbook of Social Work and Addictive Behaviors. Routledge Audrey L. Begun , Margaret M. Murray Eds). 2020. Routledge Press.

## Reports 2016- 2021 that include FASD Research Australia Investigators and Team Members as authors

1. **Tsang TW, Bower C, Elliott EJ**. Culturally safe advice on alcohol cessation in pregnancy. [Internet]. NHMRC, 2021 [cited 2021 Dec]. Available from: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/culturally-safe-advice-alcohol-cessation-pregnancy>
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4. **Rice LJ**, Carter E, Pearce J, Thomas S, Rice N, Cannon L, Davies J, Carter C, Bedford M, Bear E, and **Elliott EJ** senior author. The Fitzroy Valley National Disability Insurance Scheme Consultation Report. Report commissioned by the National Disability Insurance Agency and the National Indigenous Australian Agency. 2021 1-130.
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## Projects related to alcohol and pregnancy and/or FASD and involving FASD Research Australia Investigators and Team Members\*

### FASD Hub Australia

The FASD Hub was established to be a one stop shop for information, tools, research and consumer support about FASD in Australia and provide relevant links to international research and resources. The mission of the FASD Hub is to be the leading source of high quality, evidence-based content about alcohol and pregnancy and FASD in Australia.

[Find out more on the FASD Hub](#)

**Co-Leads:** Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Professor Carol Bower\*

**Project Team:** Ms Heather Jones\*, Ms Kate Harford\*

**Fund Holder:** University of Sydney 2017-2019, Telethon Kids Institute 2020-2023

**Funder:** Australian Government Department of Health 2017-2019 and 2020-2023

### Improving the health, mental health and wellbeing of adolescents in a remote Indigenous Community: The Bigiswun Kid Project.

Community leaders want to identify protective and risk factors for adversity in adolescence. Community members sought to partner with researchers from the University of Sydney to follow-up the Lililwan cohort at age 17-19 years, ten years after the Lililwan Project.

**Investigators:** Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Dr Lauren Rice\*, Dr Tracey Tsang\*, Ms Emily Carter, Ms Jadnah Davies, Ms Sue Thomas

**Project Team:** Professor Carol Bower\*, Ms Lisa Cannon\*, Ms Marmingee Hand, Mr Eric Bedford, Ms Laurena Shaw, Ms Cheyenne Carter

**Fund Holder:** University of Sydney

**Funders:** FASD Research Australia (2019)  
Australian Rotary Health (2018-2020)  
Ian Potter Foundation (2020-2023)  
Faculty of Medicine & Health USYD (2020-2023)  
Healthway (2020-2021)

## Cliniface: Unlocking facial clues

This project is aimed at assisting clinical diagnosis, treatment (drug) monitoring, clinical trials and surgical planning, by developing an objective and unobtrusive analysis method through 3D facial image analysis.

[Read more about this research](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Gareth Baynam, Dr Petra Helmholz, Dr Richard Palmer, Dr Tracey Tsang\*

**Project Team:** Dr Lyn Schofield, Ms Paula Fievez, Dr Dylan Gration, Dr Cathryn Poulton

**Fundholder:** Genetic Services WA

**Funders:** Cliniface's development is supported through research grants and from contributions by partner organisations, including FASD Research Australia. 2016 ongoing

## Normative Eye Tracking

This research will replicate promising methods from Canada where eye-tracking coupled with advanced statistical models can screen children for FASD with 74.1% accuracy. Before we use this system to screen for FASD in Australia we need to know what is "normal" for eye-movements for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in Australia and check if this is the same as in Canada.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Martyn Symons\*, Dr Roslyn Giglia\*, Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Tracey Tsang\*, Dr Brennen Mills and Professor James Reynolds

**Project Team:** Dr Martyn Symons\*, Dr Tracey Tsang\*

**Fund Holder:** FASD Research Australia

**Funder:** FASD Research Australia 2017 ongoing

## Supporting Indigenous people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: An online learning resource for health professionals.

This project will develop an online FASD learning resource that provides culturally appropriate information to the staff of mainstream health services in remote Aboriginal Communities.

**Investigators:** Dr Lauren Rice\*, Ms Jadnah Davies

**Project Team:** Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Dr Lauren Rice\*, Ms Lisa Cannon\*, Ms Jadnah Davies, Ms Emily Carter, Ms Marmingee Hand, Ms Jane Weston, Ms Sue Thomas, Mr Eric Bedford, Ms Laurena Shaw, Ms Chyenne Carter

**Fund Holder:** Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre

**Funder:** NDIS Mainstream Capacity Building Program 2020-2022

## DNA Methylation Biomarkers of prenatal alcohol exposure: Informing FASD diagnosis

The aim of this research is to identify DNA methylation biomarkers of prenatal alcohol exposure in a controlled murine experiment, with replication in existing methylation data sets from:

- a) human neonates with well characterised PAE exposure patterns
- b) children diagnosed with FASD

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr David Martino, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Assoc Professor Alexander Larcombe, Professor Ryan Lister, Assoc Professor Delyse Hutchinson, Ms Evelynne Muggli, Assoc Professor Jeff Craig, Professor Jane Halliday\*, Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Professor James Reynolds, Dr Sam Buckberry, Mr Mitchell Bestry, Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*

**Project Team:** Dr David Martino, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Mr Mitchell Bestry

**Fund Holder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** FASD Research Australia, WA Child Research Fund 2020-2022

## FASD Australian Registry (FASDAR)

The University of Sydney in partnership with the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit (APSU), Telethon Kids Institute, NOFASD Australia, FASD Hub Australia, FASD Research Australia, the University of Queensland, the Menzies School of Health Research, CICADA NSW FASD Assessment Clinic, Royal Far West, Victorian Fetal Alcohol Service, Patches Paediatrics, Gold Coast Health, SA Health, Royal North Shore Hospital and FASD C.A.R.E. aim to develop a mechanism for data collection of FASD diagnoses across Australia. FASDAR will increase the availability of national FASD epidemiological data to support development of evidence-based treatment, research, national policy and service delivery.

**Investigators:** Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Professor Carol Bower\*

**Project Team:** Dr Melissa Cheung

**Fund Holder:** Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit, the University of Sydney

**Funder:** Australian Government Department of Health 2020-2023



### A practice change intervention to increase the provision of antenatal care addressing maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy: a stepped wedge trial

Funding to improve the implementation of screening, advice and referral for alcohol use by pregnant women attending public antenatal clinics.

**Investigators:** Professor John Wiggers, Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Assoc Professor Adrian Dunlop, Professor Ian Symonds, Professor John Attia, Assoc Professor Luke Wolfenden, Professor Chris Rissel

**Project Team:** Dr Melanie Kingsland, Dr Tracey Tsang\*, Ms Sarah Ward, Dr Amy Anderson, Ms Shani Goldman, Dr Andrew Searles, Ms Carol Azzopardi, Me Karen Gilham, Ms Penny Reeves, Ms Emma Doherty, Ms Belinda Tully, Ms Kristy Crooks

**Fundholder:** University of Newcastle

**Funder:** NHMRC 2015-2018

### Review & dissemination of the Australian FASD diagnostic tool

Since the publication of the first Australian guidelines for FASD diagnosis in 2016 a number of countries, including Scotland and Canada, have developed or updated their guidelines and other diagnostic systems and are currently undertaking their own review processes. A significant barrier to addressing FASD is the inconsistent diagnostic criteria utilised globally. There are approximately 11 different systems in use around the world. Our consortia will undertake a detailed review of all the available tools and diagnostic guidelines and integrate this with clinician feedback.

**Organisations:** University of Queensland, Gold Coast Child Development Service, Queensland Health, Coastal Developmental Paediatrics, Telethon Kids Institute, University of Sydney, Griffith University, PATCHES Paediatrics, La Trobe University, West Moreton Hospital and Health Service - Specialist Mental Health Intellectual Disability Service, Russell Family Fetal Alcohol Disorders Association, NOFASD Australia, FASD Collaboration for Assessment and Care Research and Education Incorporated, Monash Children's Hospital – VICFAS Service

**Fund Holder:** University of Queensland

**Funder:** Australian Government Department of Health 2020-2023

### Pilbara FASD Prevention Project

The aim of this research is to develop, implement and evaluate an evidence-based, culturally appropriate model of prevention aimed to reduce the rates of alcohol use in pregnancy among Aboriginal women in three communities in the Pilbara in WA, as well as Aboriginal women of childbearing age and their partners and families, community leaders and young people.

We also aim to enhance the capacity of health professionals (community midwives, community health nurses, general practitioners, Aboriginal Health Workers, community health workers) working with women.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Assoc Professor Roz Walker, Professor Rhonda Marriott, Mr Glenn Pearson\*, Professor Sven Silburn\*, Professor Mike Daube, Dr Martyn Symons\*

**Project Team:** Ms Michelle Gray, Mr Dave Tucker

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** NHMRC 2017-2021

### ORIGINS of Neurodevelopmental Risk and Resilience: Examining neurodevelopmental trajectories in infants in the ORIGINS cohort

This project aims to investigate interactions between biological and psychosocial factors in predisposing children to neurodevelopmental risk or resilience, as well as test specific pathways (e.g. maternal immune function, child gut microbiome function) by which neurodevelopmental vulnerability may be conferred.

**Investigators:** Dr Amy-Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Jenny Downs, Professor Deb Strickland, Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Professor Helen Leonard, Dr Desiree Silva, Dr Brad Jongeling

**Project Team:** Dr Amy-Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Jenny Downs, Professor Deb Strickland, Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Professor Helen Leonard, Dr Desiree Silva, Dr Brad Jongeling, Dr Vincent Mancini, Dr Kandice Varcin, Dr Gail Alvares, Dr Phil Stumbles, Dr Natasha Reid, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Ms Gabrielle Rigney, Dr Elysia Hollams

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** WA Child Health Research Fund 2018-2021

## Making FASD History: A multisite prevention program

The focus of this program is building capacity in local organisations so that communities can own and continue to lead FASD prevention activity after the research is finished. The program aims to support communities to use consistent information and messages about drinking in pregnancy and FASD utilising existing national and regional FASD prevention resources.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Dr John Boffa, Emeritus Professor John Boulton

**Project Team:** Dr Elizabeth Connor, Dr Rebecca Pedruzzi, Dr Fleur van Dooren, Ms Donna Lemon, Ms Justine Swan-Castine, Ms Elvira Johnston, Ms Helena Hodgson, Dr Olivia Hamilton, Ms Annalee Stearne, Dr Tania Gavidia, Ms Kaashifah Bruce

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** NHMRC 2017-2020

## Screening for FASD in Western Australia: Policy and practice recommendations

This project will conduct a literature review, an analysis of national and international screening tools and provide best practice recommendations for implementation in WA.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*

**Project Team:** Dr Yi Huey Lim\*, Ms Natalie Kippin\*, Ms Heather Jones\*

**Fund Holder:** Telethon Kids Institute.

**Funder:** WA Government Department of Health 2020

## Best practice framework for FASD Prevention

This project aims to contribute to the current body of knowledge by reflecting on programs that aim to reduce prenatal alcohol exposure in Australia. The project will provide an overview of FASD prevention programs in Australia, employing a unifying framework to understand the processes program developers use to move from problem identification to problem solution. This work will enable identification of recommendations for future prevention research and practice aimed at reducing alcohol exposed pregnancies and FASD in the Australian context.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Rebecca Pedruzzi, Dr Sylvia Roozen

**Project Team:** Dr Rebecca Pedruzzi, Dr Sylvia Roozen

**Fund Holder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** Friends of the Institute 2017-2020

## Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP) – A pilot study in Perth

PCAP provides three years of assistance to women who have alcohol or drug use disorders, who are pregnant or who have given birth within the last year, and are not currently accessing services. The assistance is provided in the form of “advocates”, social workers who provide home visitation case management and help the women in the program to engage with services effectively to meet their own goals via a combination of relational theory, motivational interviewing and harm reduction concepts.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Martyn Symons\*, Dr Tracy Reibel\*, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*

**Project Team:** Dr Martyn Symons\*

**Fundholder:** FASD Research Australia

**Funder:** FASD Research Australia 2018-2020

## FASD in the Australian education system: Knowledge, attitudes, needs and practices

The primary aim of this study is to examine knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to FASD and its implications for the classroom, among primary and secondary school staff working in Catholic and Independent Schools in Western Australia. In addition, the aim of this research is to examine school staff perspectives of the needs of students with FASD, and to compare needs of students with FASD with the needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Investigators:** Professor Carol Bower\*, Dr Amy-Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Roslyn Giglia\*, Dr Beth Sagers

**Project Team:** Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Ms Lisa Cannon\*, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Ms Jacinta Freeman

**Fund Holder:** FASD Research Australia

**Funder:** FASD Research Australia 2018-2020

## Epi-genetic alcohol exposure and markers

**Investigators:** Dr Martyn Symons\*

**Project Team:** Dr David Martino, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Assoc Professor Alexander Larcombe, Mr Mitchell Bestry

**Fundholder:** FASD Research Australia

**Funder:** FASD Research Australia CRE 2018-2020

## 'GP Ask the Question' Information on alcohol and pregnancy for General Practitioners

This project focused on developing resources to highlight the impact of prenatal alcohol exposure, and the importance of asking, assessing, recording and advising women about alcohol and pregnancy. The resources include 3 short videos and a promotional card for distribution to GP practices and individual GPs.

[Read more about this project and access the resources.](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Tracy Reibel\*, Dr Roslyn Giglia\*, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*, Dr Martyn Symons\*

**Project Team:** Ms Heather Jones\*, Ms Candice Browne\*

**Fund Holder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** WA Primary Health Alliance 2018-2019

## Dissemination and evaluation of the Australian Guide to the diagnosis of FASD & eLearning modules

The Australian Guide and eLearning modules were disseminated using multiple modalities including via relevant websites, presentations at scientific conferences and seminars and in specially convened clinical training workshops. These workshops were developed to provide detailed training on the use of the Guide and obtain feedback from multi-disciplinary groups. The latter activity enabled us to develop a Facilitator Manual and other resources.

[Read more about this project](#) and [Access the Australian Guide and eLearning modules](#)

**Co-Leads:** Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Professor Carol Bower\*

**Project Team:** Ms Heather Jones\*, Dr Anne Morris\*

**Fund Holder:** University of Sydney

**Funder:** Australian Government Department of Health 2018-2019

## Working towards a shared framework in the diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disorders in Australia: A gap analysis

This project aimed to evaluate the ideal and actual interaction between all existing clinical guidance documents for NDD diagnosis in Australia. The WA clinical community and families were consulted in order to understand the challenges and benefits of developing a shared framework.

**Investigators:** Dr Amy-Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Kiah Evans, Ms Narelle Mullan\*, Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Dr John Wray

**Project Team:** Dr Kiah Evans, Narelle Mullan\*, Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Elysia Hollams

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** Telethon Kids Institute Think Big Grant 2018

## Precision pathways for young people at risk of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs)

Our research aims to improve the identification and treatment of children at risk of NDDs. We aim to identify early (birth - 2 years) markers and risk profiles for neurodevelopmental impairment, and to develop and evaluate very early treatments that are personalized to individual strengths and difficulties. By doing this, we hope to promote positive developmental outcomes across the lifespan. Together with strategies that aim to engage optimally with at-risk families and translate screening and intervention principles into policy and practice, this program has the very real potential to revolutionize the clinical management of children at heightened risk of NDDs.

**Investigators:** Dr Amy-Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Jenny Downs, Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Professor Carol Bower\*, Dr Gail Alvares, Dr Kiah Evans, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Dr Kandice Varcin, Ms Narelle Mullan\*, Assoc Professor Helen Leonard, Professor Anthony Bosco, Professor Deborah Strickland, Dr Mitalia Manzur

**Project Team:** Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Jenny Downs, Dr Elysia Hollams, Dr Gail Alvares, Dr Kiah Evans, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Dr Kandice Varcin, Ms Narelle Mullan\*, Assoc Professor Helen Leonard, Professor Deb Strickland

**Fundholder:** FASD Research Australia

**Funder:** FASD Research Australia 2018-2019

## ASCEND – Australian Collaboration to Enhance Neurodevelopment

The Australian Collaboration to Enhance Neuro-Development is working to build capacity for Australian researchers, across a range of disciplines, to conduct long-term research that will enable:

- Early identification of children at high risk of developing neurodevelopmental conditions
- Early intervention before age 2 years to enhance neurodevelopment

**Investigators:** Dr Amy-Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Jenny Downs, Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Assoc Professor Helen Leonard, Dr Kiah Evans, Ms Narelle Mullan\*, Dr Melissa Licari, Dr Gail Alvares, Dr Martyn Symons\*, Dr Kandice Varcin

**Project Team:** Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Jenny Downs, Dr Elysia Hollams, Dr Kiah Evans, Ms Narelle Mullan\*

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** Telethon Kids Institute Think Big Grant 2019-2020

## Hedland FASD Project

This five-year research program aimed at reducing the prevalence and impact of FASD in the Pilbara, specifically in Port Hedland, Warralong and Yandeyarra. The work fostered genuine community leadership, and ownership of issues related to alcohol and other substance use in pregnancy.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Mr Glenn Pearson\*, Ms June Councillor, Assoc Professor Roz Walker

**Project Team:** Ms Michelle Gray, Mr Dave Tucker

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** BHP 2015-2019

## Alcohol and Breastfeeding

This project looked at what doctors and nurses tell new mothers about drinking alcohol while they are breastfeeding so that they can provide supportive messages which allow a mother to drink and still safely breastfeed.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Roslyn Giglia\*

**Project Team:** Dr Roslyn Giglia\*, Dr Martyn Symons\*

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** NHMRC 2017-2019

## Midwives & Women AUDIT-C Intervention (part of 3M)

This project was designed to improve the capacity of midwives working in antenatal settings to use the pregnancy specific Audit-C alcohol risk screening tool with pregnant women, and provide guidance (a brief intervention) to them about the effects of alcohol use on the developing baby. Additionally, readily available resources were identified for midwives to provide them with a range of educational resources to provide to women. The main project outcome was a Learning Package for midwives outlining the rationale for conducting Audit-C screening in pregnancy, the key elements involved in conducting a brief educational intervention and a comprehensive list of relevant professional educational resources.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr Tracy Reibel\*, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*, Ms Tess Fletcher\*

**Project Team:** Dr Tracy Reibel\*

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** WA Government Department of Health 2016-2018

## Banksia Hill Detention Centre Project

The primary aim of this study was to examine the prevalence of FASD among young people in detention. Secondary aims of this study were: workforce development, qualitative evaluation development and evaluation of a FASD screening tool.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Professor Carol Bower\*, Professor Rhonda Marriott, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*, Assoc Professor Raewyn Mutch\*, Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Assoc Professor Carmela Pestell, Professor Steve Zubrick\*, Mr Peter Collins, Professor Jonathan Carapetis\*

**Project Team:** Ms Noni Walker, Ms Jacinta Freeman, Dr Sharynne Hamilton, Dr Carmen Condon, Dr Hayley Passmore\*, Ms Candice Rainsford\*

**Clinical Team:** Dr Raewyn Mutch\*, Dr Emma Argiro, Ms Natalie Kippin\*, Ms Bernadette Safe, Ms Candy Cheung, Ms Vicki Bothma, Ms Helen Shield, Ms Jasmine Taylor, Mr Alex Springall

**Fund Holder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** NHMRC 2015-2018

## Alert Program

Children are taught five ways to change their level of alertness (engine levels) through listening, moving, touching, looking or putting something in their mouth. Using these strategies can improve students' ability to focus and attend in class.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Professor Karen Edmond, Professor Jane Latimer\*, Professor Branko Celler, Dr Trevor Mazzucchelli, Mr Glenn Pearson\*, Dr Heather Carmichael Olsen, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*, Professor John Boulton, Ms Maureen Carter

**Project Team:** Ms Bree Wagner, Ms Sue Cherel, Ms Samantha Ahfat, Ms Marissa Williams, Ms Danielle Munday, Ms Rebecca Smith, Ms Janice Moore, Ms Jennifer Jacky, Ms Kerry Anne Hobbs, Ms Maria Cox, Ms Cynthia Cox, Ms Tamika Shaw, Dr Martyn Symons\*

**Fund Holder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** NHMRC 2016-2018

## 3M Marulu, Midwives & Mass media

The objective of the FASD Prevention Strategy was to implement and evaluate a community designed FASD prevention strategy for the Fitzroy Valley and surrounding communities that, if effective, could be translated to other settings in Western Australia.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Ms Maureen Carter, Ms June Oscar\*, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*, Professor Carol Bower\*, Mr Glenn Pearson\*, Professor Jonathan Carapetis\*, Professor Mike Daube, Ms Kaashifah Bruce

**Project Team:** Dr Martyn Symons\*, Ms Kaashifah Bruce, Dr Tracy Reibel\*

**Fundholder:** Telethon Kids Institute

**Funder:** WA Government Department of Health, WA Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Lottery West, CAGES Foundation, Kimberley Diamond Company, Variety Club of WA 2013-2017

## Long-term effect on offspring of low to moderate or binge drinking during pregnancy (AQUA at 6)

The AQUA study's ongoing aim is to investigate whether occasional, low or moderate alcohol consumption in pregnancy is associated with any problems in the health and development of young children. The purpose of AQUA at 6 is to gather detailed information on 6-7 year old children about how they are coping with the new demands on their development as they enter school. For this, children complete a comprehensive neuropsychological assessment. The study is also looking at the facial development of the children using 3D photographs and investigate possible brain characteristics using MRI scans of a subset of children.

[Read more about this project](#)

**Investigators:** Professor Peter Anderson, Professor Jane Halliday\*, Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Professor Anthony Penington, Assoc Professor Deanne Thompson, Ms Evelyne Muggli, Assoc Professor Alicia Spittle, Professor Della Forster, Doctor Sharon Lewis and Mr Stephen Hearps

**Project Team:** Evi Muggli, Sophie Gibson, Ngoc Nguyen, Siobhan Seward-Swann, Stephanie Malarby, Pip Pyman, Garance Delagneau

**Fund Holder:** Murdoch Children's Research Institute

**Funder:** NHMRC Project grant (APP1146635) 2018-2021

## PhD and Masters Research involving FASD Research Australia Investigators and Team Members\*

### Motor performance, prenatal alcohol exposure and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in Aboriginal children in remote Australia

**PhD Candidate:** Barbara Lucas

**Supervisors:** Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Professor Jane Latimer\*

This thesis was passed in 2016.

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Fine Motor Skills: A population-based study of children in the Fitzroy Valley

**PhD Candidate:** Robyn Doney

The thesis aimed to fill two gaps in the scientific literature: 1) the paucity of information regarding the fine motor abilities of Aboriginal children in remote regions of Australia (this is important considering the children's consistent underperformance on national academic testing) and 2) the lack of a comprehensive profile of fine motor impairment in children with PAE and/or FASD, and the implications this has for FASD diagnosis and treatment.

**Supervisors:** Professor Peter Howat, Dr Kay Sauer, Dr Jonine Jancey, Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*

This thesis was passed in 2018.

[Read Robyn's thesis](#)

### The Picture Talk Project: Research Partnerships, Community Engagement and Reaching Consent for Research with Remote Aboriginal Communities in Australia

**PhD Candidate:** Emily Fitzpatrick

**Supervisors:** Professor Elizabeth Elliott\*, Professor Alexandra Martiniuk, Dr Gaynor Macdonald

This thesis was passed in 2019.

### An Aboriginal woman's historical and philosophical enquiry to identify the outcomes of prenatal alcohol exposure and early life trauma in Indigenous children who live in Aboriginal communities in Queensland (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Ms Lorian Hayes\*

This thesis describes Lorian's research journey over the past 20 years as she has strived to understand the effects that alcohol use in pregnancy has on the health of Aboriginal women and their children and families.

This thesis was passed in 2019.

[Read Lorian's thesis](#)

**Supervisors:** Professor Wendy Hoy, Professor Paul Colditz

### Improving the management of young people with FASD in detention (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Ms Hayley Passmore

The research assessed the current knowledge and practices relating to FASD and neurodevelopmental impairments among the workforce at Banksia Hill Detention Centre (BHDC), the only youth detention centre in Western Australia. These data informed the development of a training intervention which was implemented and evaluated with the workforce at BHDC using mixed methods. The aim of this intervention, and the ultimate objective of Hayley's PhD research, was to build capacity among the youth justice workforce regarding FASD and other neurodevelopmental impairments by upskilling them in the management strategies most appropriate for young people in detention with such impairments.

This thesis was passed in 2019.

[Read more about Hayley's research](#)

**Supervisors:** Professor Carol Bower\*, Professor Jonathan Carapetis\*, Clinical Assoc Professor Raewyn Mutch\*, Assoc Professor Sharyn Burns, Assoc Professor Guy Hall

## Talking, Hearing, Understanding, Knowing: A qualitative exploration of the experiences of justice-involved youth undergoing assessment for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in a juvenile detention centre (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Ms Sharynne Hamilton

The qualitative research aimed to examine the views of young people and their families, non-custodial staff working in the detention centre, and youth justice service providers to explore their views and experiences of assessments for FASD or neuro-developmental disability which were undertaken as part of the Banksia Hill Detention Centre prevalence study. The thesis was underpinned by two theoretical frameworks: 'Wicked Problems' and 'Hope'.

This thesis was passed in 2020.

[Read more about Sharynne's research](#)

**Supervisors:** Professor Carol Bower\*, Dr Melissa O'Donnell, Clinical Associate Professor Raewyn Mutch\*, Associate Professor Tracy Reibel\*, Professor Valerie Braithwaite

## The Alert Program Study: development and evaluation of an intervention to improve the self-regulation and executive functioning of Australian Aboriginal primary school children with a focus on FASD (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Ms Bree Wagner

This research aimed to:

- Modify, implement and evaluate a school curriculum version of the Alert Program®.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of an eight-week Alert Program® curriculum to improve the self-regulation and executive functioning skills of children attending primary school in the Fitzroy Valley.
- Document a sustainable and culturally appropriate method of implementing the Alert Program® in Fitzroy Valley schools.

This thesis was passed in 2020.

[Read more about Bree's research](#)

**Supervisors:** Professor Jonathan Carapetis\*, Professor Donna Cross, Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Dr Martyn Symons\*

## A neurodevelopmental focused screening tool for young children with FASD (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Mr Stewart McDougall

This research aimed to test if a newly developed screening tool can accurately identify children at-risk of having FASD from their peers who are not at risk.

This thesis was passed in 2020.

**Supervisors:** Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Professor Fiona Arney, Dr Andrea Gordon

## Communication, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and youth justice (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Ms Natalie Kippin\*

The aim of this research is to examine both the spoken and written communication skills of young people in Western Australia's youth detention centre, in which a high prevalence of neuro-disability, including FASD, was identified. It is anticipated that the research findings will help to inform future assessment, educational and rehabilitation approaches with young people who come into contact with the youth justice system.

This thesis was passed in 2021. [Access the thesis here.](#)

[Read more about Natalie's research](#)

**Supervisors:** Assoc Professor Suze Leitao, Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*, Dr Rochelle Watkins\*

## The psychosocial determinants of alcohol use in pregnancy: Implications for health promotion messages in Western Australia (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Ms Tess Fletcher\*

The overarching aim of this study is to provide insight into the psychosocial determinants of Western Australian women's intentions to use alcohol in pregnancy and extend the evidence base regarding health promotion messages that have the potential to reduce alcohol use in pregnancy.

[Read more about Tess's research](#)

**Supervisors:** Dr Barbara Mullan, Dr Amy Finlay-Jones\*

### Determinants of prenatal alcohol exposure among Aboriginal women in the Pilbara (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Mr David Tucker

The overarching aim of the proposed research is to identify the key psycho-social and contextual determinants of alcohol use during pregnancy in Aboriginal women of the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

[Read more about Dave's research](#)

**Supervisors:** Dr Nyanda McBride, Assoc Professor Roz Walker, Dr Martyn Symons\*

### The epigenetic origin of alcohol induced disorders: A cross species study (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Mr Mitchell Bestry

**Supervisors:** Dr David Martino, Dr Martyn Symons\*, and Professor Ryan Lister

### Diagnosing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Western Australia: Investigating the characteristic profiles of children, adolescents and young adults. (PhD)

**PhD Candidate:** Ms Kuen Yee Tan

**Supervisors:** Dr James Fitzpatrick\*, Dr Martyn Symons\*

### Estimating the economic burden of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Australia: An economic modelling approach (Masters)

**Masters Student:** Dr Amy-Finlay-Jones\*

This research aimed to estimate the lifetime economic burden of FASD in Australia using economic modelling.

[Read more about Amy's research](#)

This thesis was passed in 2018.

**Supervisor:** Associate Professor Lisa Gold

### Young People in detention in Western Australia: An examination of motor skill and the effect of prenatal alcohol exposure (Masters)

**Masters Student:** Ms Bernadette Safe

[Read more about Bernadette's research](#)

**Supervisors:** Dr Roslyn Giglia\*, Assoc Professor Annette Joosten

This thesis was passed in 2019.





## Contact

[contact@fasdhub.org.au](mailto:contact@fasdhub.org.au)  
+61 8 6319 1824

[www.fasdhub.org.au](http://www.fasdhub.org.au)