



Neurodevelopmental and Behavioural
Paediatric Society of Australasia

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9 December 2019

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: Community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into Effective Approaches to prevention and diagnosis of FASD: Written Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and for the extension of time to provide this submission.

The Neurodevelopmental and Behavioural Paediatric Society of Australasia (NBPSA) is a membership organisation for doctors who work with children, and their families, who have problems impacting development and behaviour. The Society represents doctors who have a specialist interest in working with children with neurodevelopmental and behavioural challenges.

The attached submission includes a number of recommendations including a renewed focus on community education for women of childbearing age and population health strategies for reducing the stigma associated with FASD for families.

There is also a need to establish stronger connections between Health, the NDIS and related agencies to coordinate assessment and care for kids with FASD and other neurodevelopmental and behavioural conditions that give rise to disabilities. An unintended consequence of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has been the erosion of networks between clinical and disability services and an increasingly siloed agency approaches to kids and families dealing with complex developmental problems. Families are now expected to bring everything together and they are getting lost.

It is also important to recognise that children's support needs change over time. Funding and support arrangements, including the NDIS, need to be more agile and responsive to these changes.

Should you require any further information, please contact Greg Rochford, Chief Executive Officer, NBPSA at g.rochford@nbpsa.org

We would be happy to discuss the submission in due course and look forward to working with you in support of children and families.

Yours sincerely

Associate Professor Gehan Roberts
President
(encl)

Dr Samantha Kaiser
Chair, Advocacy Committee