

Building FASD-informed capability across child and family services to strengthen family wellbeing



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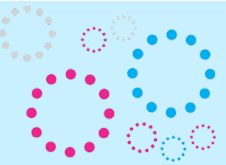


Acknowledgement of Country

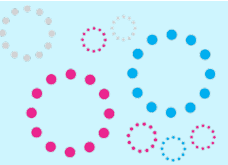


Artwork Acknowledgement:
'Mob' by Barkindji artist, A.Awege

NOFASD Australia acknowledges and pays respect to past, present and emerging Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples



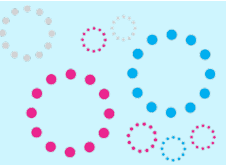
- Peak body for parents, caregivers and individuals affected by FASD.
- Confidential helpline services, 365 days a year
- Online education and support groups for caregivers
- Online and downloadable resources
- Education, awareness and advocacy through training, conferences, advisory boards and the media.
- Lived experience expert advisory groups



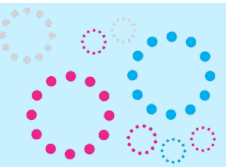
What is FASD?

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

FASD is the term used to describe the physical and/or neurodevelopmental disorder that can result from prenatal alcohol exposure.

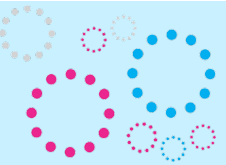


Families Navigating Multiple Systems



What Happens When FASD Is Not Recognised?

- Unrecognised neurodevelopmental differences
- Behaviour misinterpreted
- Inappropriate expectations and responses
- Family stress and disengagement
- Poorer outcomes



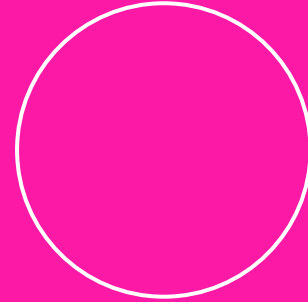
Why FASD-Informed Services Matter



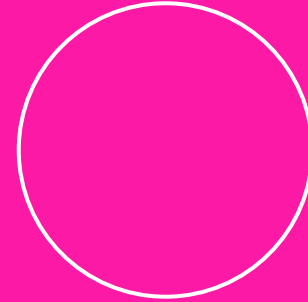
Estimated
prevalence
3.64%



17-19x
more likely to be in
OOHC



46%
engage in risky
substance use



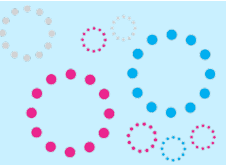
36%
young people in
detention
diagnosed with
FASD

Source: Tsang et al. (2025),

Petrenko et al. (2020),

Mclachlan et el. (2020),

Bower (2018)



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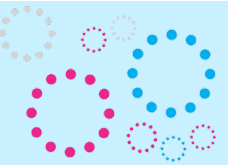
What Does FASD-Informed Practice Look Like?

Understand FASD and how it impacts daily functioning

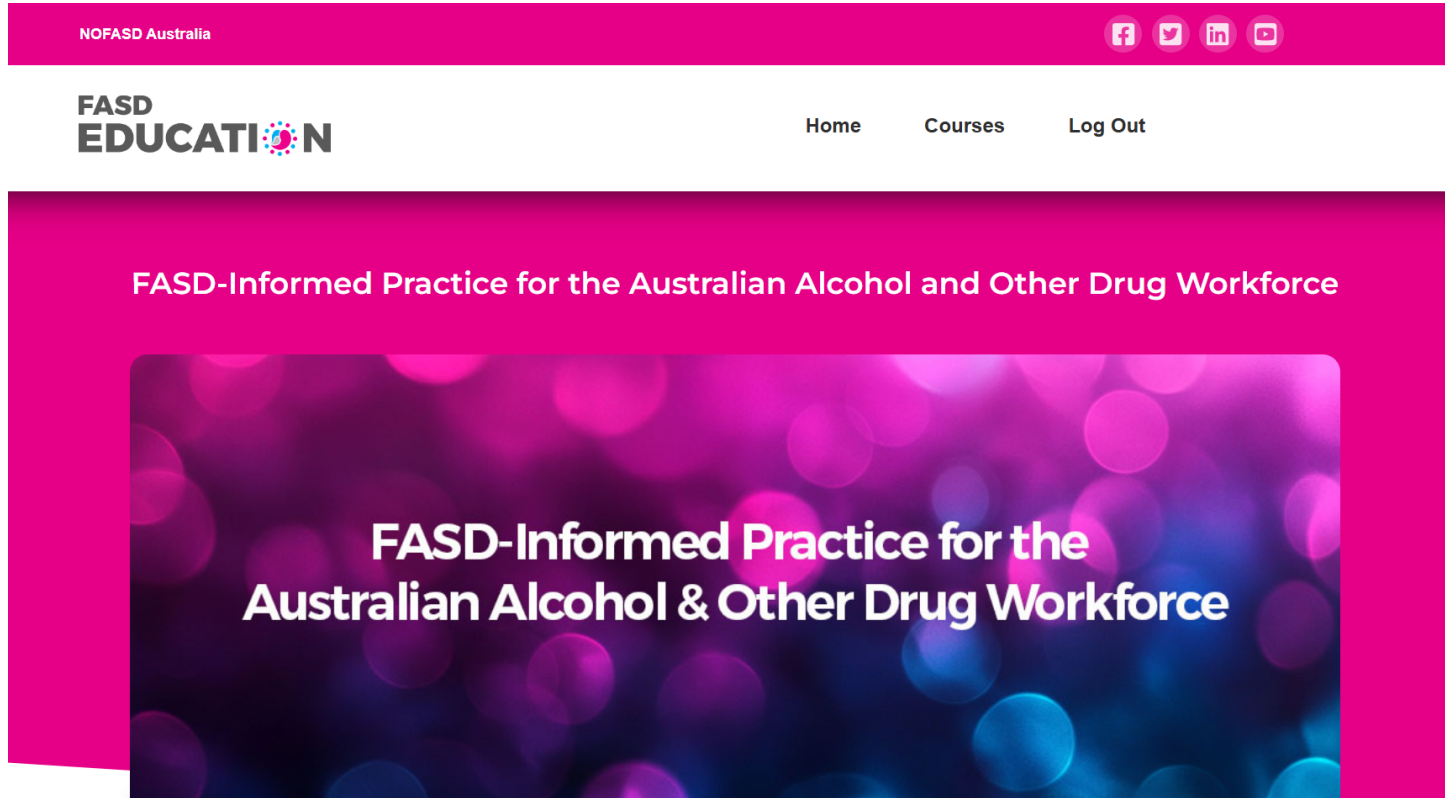
Reframe Behaviour

Adapt Everyday Practice

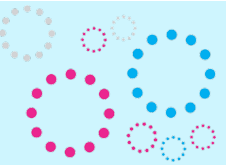
Collaboration with Families and other services



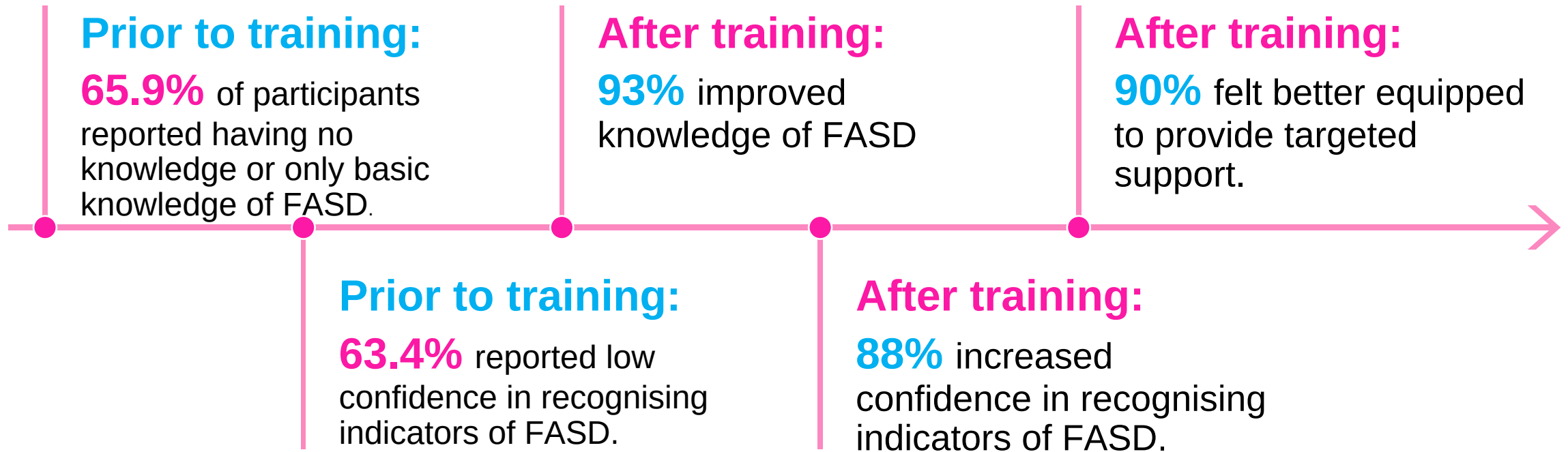
Building Capability Through Workforce Development



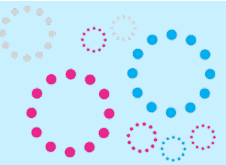
<https://fasd.education/>



What Have We Learned About Building FASD-Informed Capability?

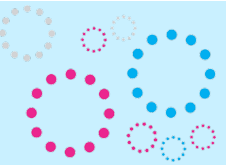


Source: NOFASD & AADC Evaluation Data Report 2025 -2026



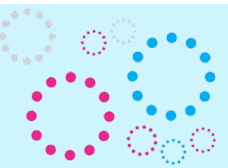
What Families Tell Us

- Families often repeat their story across services.
- Behaviour is frequently misunderstood.
- Different services may have conflicting expectations.
- Families value consistency, predictability and collaboration.
- Recognition of FASD can be a turning point.



Practical Changes That Make a Difference

Communication	Procedures	Environment	Collaboration
Plain language	Reminders	Reduce distractions	Shared planning
Repeat key information	Flexible appointments	Increase predictability	Consistent messaging
Check understanding	Simpler forms	Minimise sensory demands	Coordinated supports



Where to From Here?

Build

- Increase understanding of FASD
- Provide practical training and resources
- Support informed, confident practice

Improve

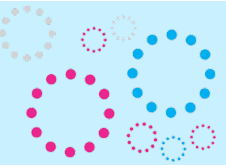
- Adapt communication and processes
- Increase predictability for families
- Support participation and engagement

Strengthen

- Work across sectors
- Share knowledge and understanding
- Reduce fragmented support

Embed

- Include FASD in policy and frameworks
- Build capability across services
- Create more accessible systems

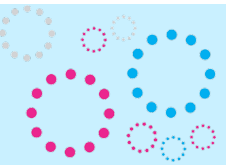


Thank you! – Stay FASD informed

NOFASD Australia is dedicated to reducing the harm caused by alcohol-exposed pregnancies and improving lives for those living with FASD.



NOFASD National Helpline 7 Days a week 365 Days of the year



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