

RFFADA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 21



RFFADA

[Rffada Facebook](#) – the rffada on FB is gradually becoming a forum where people can ask questions about FASD and obtain a variety of answers. This is what I had hoped would happen with this FB site because there are around 200,000 people with FASD in Australia so there are many mothers, fathers, carers, aunts, grandmothers and services trying to figure out how to help these people. The more people who can link to the rffada site on FB, the more solutions there might be for a question from a distressed mother.

Thanks to all those people who are friends of the rffada ☺

[Rffada Website](#)

FASD AS A RECOGNISED DISABILITY

I have attached voting buttons to this email so we can get your view on whether FASD should be on the Australian Government's list of recognised disabilities. We have a poll on the rffada website – if you vote via this email please don't also vote on the website. If we can let the government know that the overwhelming majority of people on our database believe that those people living with FASD should receive validation of the issues they face throughout their lifetime they will have to consider. Until that occurs, FASD will remain a disability in absentia and people with FASD will not receive the services they require.

Please vote 'yes' to indicate that you are in agreement with FASD being officially recognised as a disability by the Australian government.

FASD TRAINING

The Russell Family Fetal Alcohol Disorders Association (rffada) in conjunction with TCA have developed 12 modules of training in FASD – the first publicly available FASD training in Australia.

The modules available are outlined below:

Unit	Description	Audience
1	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	A prerequisite for all other modules
2	Strategies for Frontline Workers	For medical and allied health professionals social and welfare workers
2a	Strategies for Drug and Alcohol Workers	Drug and Alcohol Workers
2b	Strategies for Mental Health Workers	Mental Health workers, Psychologist
3	Living with FASD for parents and carers	Strategies for parents and carers
4	Strategies for Teachers and Educators	
5	Strategies for Employment Consultants	
5a	Case Management Fundamentals	
6	Strategies for Criminal Justice Personnel	
7	Alcohol and Pregnancy for Students and Young People	Prevention training
8	Strategies for Homelessness Providers	

Our rate is \$1800 per day (2 modules) for between 10 and 15 people and we have trainers in various parts of the country. Each participant receives a comprehensive workbook and a Certificate of Attendance. For more information visit www.rffada.org or contact Elizabeth on 0412 550 540. For those organisations which would prefer a longer term service, we can provide suggestions, support, interventions, information, consultations on specific individuals on a hypothetical basis and other agreed activities for a fee of \$100 per month.

F A S D N E W S

Our pregnant drinkers

The Advertiser, Page 7 15-Nov-11

PREGNANT women are still drinking and smoking despite recommendations against both habits research shows The Australian Institute of Family Studies found older and more

[Women still drink and smoke while pregnant](#)

The Australian, Page 3 15-Nov-11

ONE in five pregnant women smoke and 38 per cent drink alcohol a study has found To be released today by the Australian Institute of Family Studies the

[Push for alcohol health warnings](#)

The Canberra Times, Page 6 9-Nov-11

Push for alcohol warnings NEW REGULATIONS By Peter Jean Health Reporter The results of an opinion poll will be used to pressure Australia's health ministers to quickly introduce

[Message on bottle, but will we listen?](#)

The Age, Page 13 9-Nov-11

MOST Australians support health warnings on alcohol although they do not necessarily think the measure will reduce drinking.

[The impact of optimality on maternal sensitivity in mothers with substance abuse and psychiatric problems and their infants at 3 months](#) Original Research Article

Infant Behavior and Development, Available online 8 November 2011

Torill Siqveland, Lars Smith, Vibeke Moe

[Women boozers suffer](#)

Herald Sun, Page 43 11-Nov-11

FEMALE alcoholics suffer damage to the part of their brain that controls moods impulses and sleep three times faster than their male counterparts a Swedish study has shown

[Heavy drinking in pregnancy can alter unborn babies' brains, study shows](#)

A recent study from Scripps Research Institute in California reveals heavy alcohol consumption during pregnancy could alter the genetic makeup of a growing fetus' brain, causing numerous mental and behavioral problems.

Article, The Guardian, November 13, 2011

[Risk of disease partially set in womb, scientists say](#)

Scientists have found that women that consume alcohol during their pregnancies are putting their children at risk for illnesses and diseases in adulthood.

Article, Chicago Tribune, November 13, 2011

[Smoking and drinking in pregnancy 'harms 10,000 babies in UK each year'](#)

Professor Terence Stephenson, President of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health has said more than 10,000 babies in the United Kingdom are affected by alcohol and drug use during pregnancy each year.

Article, The Guardian, November 11, 2011

[Nurse Leaders Advocate for Role in Screening, Intervention and Referral](#)

The International Nurses Society on Addictions is encouraging nurses to get more involved in Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT).

Article, JoinTogether.org, November 8, 2011

[New pregnancy book takes controversial stand on alcohol](#)

Jena Pincott, author of the new pregnancy book, *Do Chocolate Lovers Have Sweeter Babies?* suggests that there is little to no evidence that light drinking during pregnancy causes "any profound effects on the

developing fetus.”

Article, Parent Central, November 8, 2011

[Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2008-2010 - Statistical Tables](#)

According to a report from the Department of Justice, persons with cognitive disabilities were the highest targets of violent crime.

Report, U.S. Department of Justice, Fall 2011

[Detention ‘fails’ to solve foetal alcohol problem](#)

The West Australian, Online, 15-Nov-11

Locking up persistent juvenile offenders is like "beating a blind child for not reading the blackboard" and alternative sentencing options to detention must be explored, an international foetal alcohol spectrum disorder expert says

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What is Trauma Informed Care and Practice?

Many individuals seeking health and community services have histories of physical and sexual abuse and other types of traumatic experiences. These experiences often lead to substance misuse and mental health problems, in addition to other co-occurring disorders. Trauma informed organisations, programs, and services are based on an understanding of the vulnerabilities or triggers of trauma survivors that traditional service delivery approaches may exacerbate, so that these services and programs can be more supportive and avoid re-traumatisation ([Ref](#)).

[Click here](#) for more information and to register. Note day two 6 December hosts two training events for NADA member services only. If you would like more information on these workshops see the attached form or please don't hesitate to contact any of the NADA team!

NADA invites you to our 2011 member event series on trauma informed care and practice.

Date: Monday 5 December 2011

Venue: Citigate Central, 169-179 Thomas Street, Sydney

Cost: \$200

You are invited to an **NDIS public meeting in CAIRNS**, organised by Senator Jan McLucas, Queensland Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers.

Speakers at the event will include Senator McLucas, Qld Disability Services Minister Curtis Pitt, people with disability and their families and Every Australian Counts campaigners.

[Please forward this invitation through your networks to anyone you think would be interested in attending.](#)

Senator McLucas is keen to hold a break-out discussion session for the last part of the meeting – which gives us an excellent opportunity to discuss and feedback our views on how the NDIS should be progressed to maximise inclusion and minimise disadvantage during the development, launch and roll-out of the scheme.

Details are:

Time: 09.30am to 11.30 am

Date: Friday 09 December 2011

Venue: Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council Chambers, Spence Street Cairns

RSVP senator.mclucas@aph.gov.au