**Working together to share successful approaches to supporting individuals with FASD**

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Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) affects an estimated 2-5% of Australia’s population, with prevalence much higher in many subpopulations who access social and community services. FASD is a permanent brain impairment which affects multiple, but varying, neurocognitive domains. These include executive functioning, processing speed, memory, attention, impulsivity, learning, social skills, and language. To further complicate service provision, individuals with FASD commonly have developmental dysmaturity, meaning it is difficult to identify their capacity and tailor an intervention appropriate for their developmental age. Cognitive impairments mean that common interventions, which are effective and evidence-based for the general population, are often unsuccessful for individuals who have FASD.

FASD affects all sectors of our community; it does not discriminate by age, race, gender, region, or socioeconomic status. Children with FASD grow into adults with FASD, who require lifelong support in order to reach their potential. In order for social services to achieve our objective of building a better way together, it is important that all professionals utilise interventions which meet the needs of, and provide opportunity for change in, adults and families living with FASD.

This participatory session will include sections of an award-nominated training workshop; providing an up-to-date, concise overview of FASD and its implications. The session will include experiential activities, providing an opportunity for a shared understanding of living with FASD. Content will incorporate activities and messages from adults with FASD and from the parents and carers of children living with FASD. Group discussions will be incorporated throughout the workshop to enhance participant engagement and provide opportunities to explore the application of new knowledge into current practice.

Parents and carers have described raising a child with undiagnosed FASD as trying to navigate with the wrong road map. This workshop will explore the importance of identifying possible cases of FASD, and teach strategies for creating a road map which matches an individual’s capacity. This will provide professionals, and through them families, with much-needed skills and understanding to enable us all to move forward together towards better outcomes.

This workshop will explore the strengths in approaches currently being used, and identify adaptations to make interventions more accessible and effective for improving outcomes for individuals and communities into the future.