Slide 1

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Slide 2

The Alcohol & Pregnancy & FASD research team are working to:

- reduce alcohol consumption in pregnancy
- improve clinical practice and diagnosis of FASD
- support appropriate interventions, management and services for children with FASD and their families

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Slide 3

The Banksia Hill FASD Project

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in the juvenile justice system: a feasibility study of screening, diagnosis and workforce development
Funded by the NHMRC

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Slide 4

Significance of this research

This project will:
- Establish the first Australian estimate of FASD of youth in detention
- Provide a workforce development strategy for Youth Custodial and Youth Justice Staff that will support a model of management for youth with FASD in detention
- Enable appropriate and equitable management in the courts, alternatives to detention, access to appropriate support and services, and avoidance of other secondary disabilities

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Slide 5

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a non-diagnostic term or 'umbrella term' which refers to a range of conditions caused by prenatal exposure alcohol (PAE)

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)
- Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS)
- Neurodevelopmental Disorder – Alcohol exposed (ND-AE)

The effects of fetal alcohol exposure are life-long and may not be seen at birth

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Slide 6

Why diagnose?

Diagnosis of conditions within the fetal alcohol spectrum can:
- *improve* social, health and educational outcomes
- *optimise* functioning through modification of physical and social environments
- *decrease* the risk of secondary disabilities through the identification of an individual's specific areas of need

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Who will be the participants be involved in this research?

RECRUITMENT:
- **All young people** *sentenced* at Banksia Hill Detention Centre over the 12 month study period will be eligible to participate in the study (aim n=230)
- Minimum age 10 years, maximum age 17 years and 11 months
- Assent from the young people
- Consent to be gained from parents/ legal guardians or DCP

- We don't know how much alcohol, if any, is safe to drink during pregnancy
- Evidence: risk of harm to the fetus is greater the more alcohol the mother consumes; binge drinking is harmful
- Not all children exposed to alcohol during pregnancy will be affected or affected to the same degree
- The level of risk to the fetus is hard to predict and a broad range of effects are possible

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- Impulsivity
- Inability to connect past experiences with present actions
- Impaired learning
- Poor memory
- Social and behavioural problem
- Difficulties with abstract reasoning and problem solving
- Poor speech and language

➡ Increased likelihood of an encounter with the judicial system

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Project Planning

- Chief Investigators and Associate Investigators
- Steering Committee
- Community Reference Group
- Stakeholders (including; Department of Corrective Services (DCP), Aboriginal Legal Aid (ALS), Child Protection and Family Services (DPFS)).

And we had ethics approval from the University of Western Australian (UWA) and the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC)
BUT.......

Project Dissemination

Community Consultation

Have I talked to you about the FASD project Being implemented by Telethon Kids Detention Centre?
- Telephone
- Meetings
- Yarning
- Presentations
- Power Point slides
- Carpark Conversations

Some of the agencies and organisations that I have had a chat with...

- Derbyl Yerrigan
- Office Inspection of Custodial Services
- Yorgum
- **Nyoongar** Outreach Services
- South Metro Population Health Unit
- Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service
- Jacaranda Community Centre
- Alcohol youth services

- National Drug Research Institute
- Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service
- Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre
- Champion Centre

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Thank you for your time

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