



National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Advisory Group

Communiqué – 25 February 2026

The National FASD Advisory Group (Advisory Group) is pleased to publish its first communiqué. This marks the commencement of a series of communiqués to be released following each meeting, aimed at enhancing transparency and stakeholder awareness of the Group's work.

This approach was agreed at the Advisory Group's meeting on 25 February 2026, held by videoconference, in recognition of the strong interest across the sector in the Group's deliberations, and the value of providing greater visibility of key discussion themes and priorities.

Key Issues and priorities

National policy and system reform

The Advisory Group received updates on national alcohol and other drug policy developments, including reform of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Drug and Alcohol Program, progress on development and consultation of program logic and performance measures, and broader parliamentary and policy activity relevant to alcohol-related harms. Members noted the importance of proportionate evaluation, clear performance measures, and ensuring the social and economic impacts of FASD are appropriately reflected alongside health outcomes.

Strategic focus for 2026–27

Discussion focused on forward priorities for the Advisory Group, including:

- maintaining a strong emphasis on prevention, particularly of alcohol use during pregnancy;
- monitoring progress under the National FASD Strategic Action Plan 2018–2028, as it enters its later years, to identify achievements and gaps in implementation to inform a future strategy;
- ensuring Thriving Kids reforms appropriately consider FASD and related service pathways;
- strengthening the national profile and strategic influence of the Advisory Group; and
- supporting emerging research and innovation relevant to FASD diagnosis and outcomes.

Cross-sector engagement

Members emphasised the importance of continued engagement across health, education, disability and justice systems, and supported ongoing collaboration with national advisory bodies.

Next steps

The Advisory Group will progress agreed actions and continue engagement with key stakeholders. The next meeting of the National FASD Advisory Group is provisionally scheduled for October 2026.