

## **FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM TRAINING 2011 FEEDBACK REPORT**

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Training aimed to increase the knowledge understanding of drug and alcohol workers working with FASD and FASD affected clients. The training was provided by Training Connections Australia (TCA), developed by Russell Family Fetal Alcohol Disorders Association (rrfada) and facilitated by Vicki Russell. This training is one of a range of NADA hosted events aimed at increasing NADA members capacity to work with complex needs clients under the NADA Workforce Development Working with Complex Needs Initiative and the Practice Enhancement Program. The below information is a summary of participant feedback from the training event.

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### **Participant demographics**

Twelve staff from NADA member services attended the training was in Sydney on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011. Feedback was provided by nine participants and showed participants at the event included 7 from drug and alcohol non government organisations, 2 from other non government organisations.

### **Knowledge of FASD and working with FASD affected clients**

**Before the FASD training, 0%** of participants rated their knowledge of FASD and working with FASD affected clients as good or very good.

**After the FASD training, 100 %** of participants rated their knowledge of FASD and working with FASD affected clients as good or very good.

### **Using the information and resources**

**89 %** of participants thought they would **definitely use the information and resources** provided, whilst **11%** of participants thought they would possibly **use the information and resources** in the future.

### **Recommending training**

**100%** of participants noted they would recommend the training to others, 66% putting forward suggestion for organisations which may benefit from the training.

### **Awareness and capacity development**

**100%** of participants indicated the training very or somewhat **improved awareness** of FASD.

**100%** of participants indicated the training very or somewhat **improved their understanding** of the impacts of FASD.

**78%** of participants indicated the training very or somewhat **improved their capacity** to work with clients affected by FASD.

**78%** of participants indicated the training very or somewhat **improved their confidence** in working with clients affected by FASD.

**100%** of participants indicated the training very or somewhat **improved their knowledge** about where further information on FASD is available.

**100 %** of participants reported that it was very or somewhat likely that the training would **lead to some improvement** in their work or their approach to their work.

**100 %** of participants reported that it was very or somewhat likely that the training would **lead to some improvement** in the work of their organisation.

### **The Trainer**

**100%** of participants reported that the trainer was **informative**, based on their knowledge of the topic.

**100%** of participants reported that the trainer was **engaging**, based on their delivery and presentations.

### **Overall Feedback**

**100%** of participants reported that the training was very or somewhat **worthwhile** overall.

### **Most Useful Things**

Participants listed that the most useful things that they got out of the training were:

- Facts & Myths (x2)
- Resources Available
- An amazing, thorough, in-depth knowledge of FASD
- A really fantastic facilitator
- Diagnostic criteria of FASD/ Identification of problems
- Better working knowledge of FASD – signs, management etc.
- Learned about the huge need to make people aware of FASD and the dangers of alcohol particularly in pregnancy
- The importance of spreading this information
- Knowledge and experience shared with Vicki
- Meeting other workers within the AOD sector & rallying at least on a discussion level
- The hidden outcomes of FASD
- This is not an early childhood issue
- Characteristics of FASD children – primary/secondary
- Role of prevalence Damage is done in the first 19-20 days
- Understanding of FASD and possible interventions
- Intervention and treatment.
- Risk screening tools
- Gain refocusing of work practice.

## Future Training

Comments on improvements/ additional activities for future training:

- Train the trainer options
- It was very interesting and informative. I always like a video just for a change
- Short DVD (reality)\*
- More intervention/treatment practices. More info on how to work with these clients alongside non-FASD clients
- All that has been discussed – strategies/ interventions for working with FAS affected people and their families
- Split up the sessions if possible. Would have been great to have break to come back with questions
- No it was a great day; Nothing
- More of the same e.g. Part II.

## Comments on trainer & general training comments:

- The training was fabulous. The facilitator was also fabulous. “Very genuine”
- Wonderful training
- Great training – well presented. Nice to see someone so passionate in her field.
- Very engaging – from little things big things grow!
- Very knowledgeable and engaging presenter
- Training suited my learning
- Great practical applications
- The workbook/manual is fantastic.

## Other Comments:

- This is fundamental training for every community services worker.
- What a shame that training of this standard (and content) was not better attended
- Everyone who works in the JJ System must do this training. From judges to social workers (ie. if I had a wish list).

## Venue/Catering

- Thank you (1) great venue (2) food fantastic.
- Fantastic venue.
- Well catered; well organised; Well prepared; Well run; Well done.

*\* Note the training does contain DVD – it was not included in this instance due to technical difficulties.*

*NB: All percentages have been rounded up/down to the nearest full number*

## MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the FASD Training hosted by NADA and facilitated by TCA and *rrafda* please contact [Ciara at NADA](#) on 02 8113 1306.