

HOW DO SERVICES USE RESOURCES DEVELOPED FOR PREGNANT WOMEN WHO USE ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS?

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Introduction / Issues: Substance use in pregnancy can result in a range of adverse effects for the both the woman and the fetus including increased risk of miscarriage and still birth, reduction in growth, birth defects and developmental delay. To reduce the potential harms, some women need additional supports and access to appropriate treatment. A review of effective treatments for pregnant women was conducted and a resource developed. The resource was designed to be accessible to a range of health care professionals as specialist services are limited and women need to be identified and appropriately supported in non-specialist settings.

Method / Approach: The resources were provided to 13 services (5 in NSW, 2 each in VIC, QLD, SA and WA) that had contact with pregnant women who use alcohol and other drugs. Semi-structured telephone interviews were conducted determine knowledge of the resource, how it was used and suggestions for improvements. Half the services received training and assistance with development of strategies to facilitate referral pathways. Data was collected on the number of pregnant women and referrals to other services.

Key Findings: Qualitative analysis of the interviews will be presented. Preliminary analysis suggests not all services were aware of the resource, some services were using the resource and acknowledged it was designed for primary care. Examples of how the resource was used will be provided.

Discussions and Conclusions: Issues around dissemination of resources and training for staff will be discussed. Feedback on the reported utility of the resources and broader dissemination strategies will be provided.

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