

David Kault



To nhc@nhmrc.gov.au

cc

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Subject Draft guidelines recommending zero alcohol in pregnancy
[No Protective Marking]

To the committee reviewing these draft alcohol guidelines

I am a medical practitioner who has worked in remote indigenous communities severely affected by alcohol abuse and with a large proportion of children clearly mentally stunted by Foetal alcohol syndrome. From what I can understand, biologically it seems highly likely that there will be some adverse (although probably not readily measurable effect) from even small doses of alcohol in pregnancy. My experience in these communities tells me that an absolute recommendation against alcohol in pregnancy would reach the target audience & that at least some would respond appropriately (aside from current efforts from other directions to reduce alcohol problems here). I therefore write to urge that the recommendation for zero alcohol in pregnancy should be retained when the draft guidelines are formalised.

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