

What Do Australian Psychologists Know About FASD And What Are Their Training Needs?

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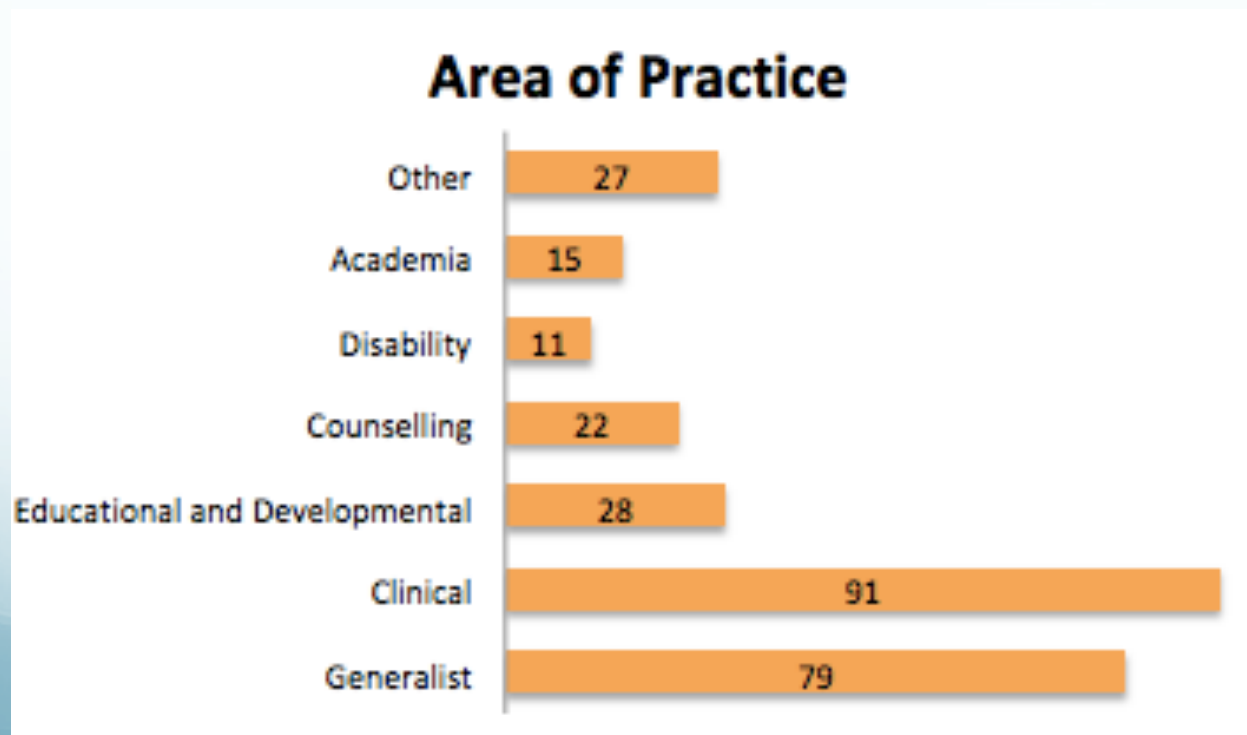
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Why Psychologists?

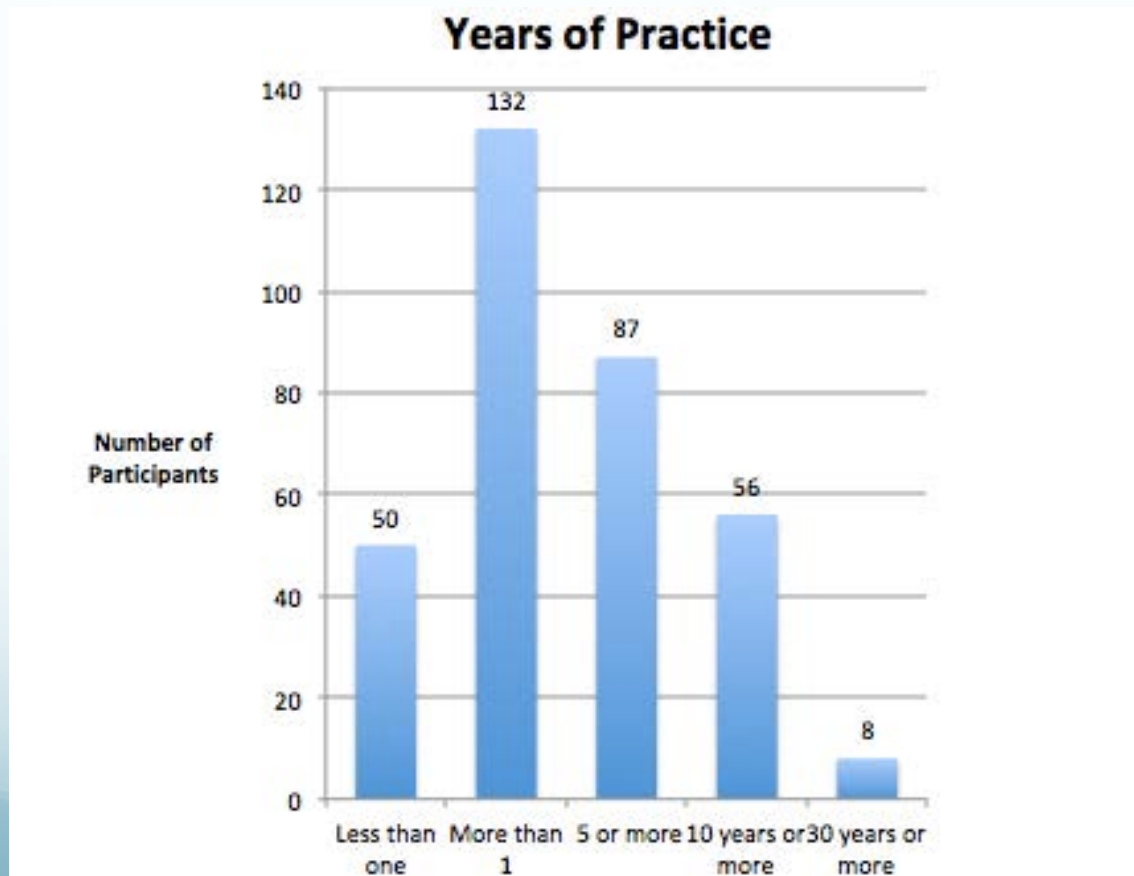
- Personal bias
- There's a lot of us - 34918*
- Limited previous research
- 7/10 brain domains assessed
- They provide assessment and treatment of other mental health alphabet i.e., ADHD, ODD, ASD, Anxiety, Depression, BPD, self harm
- Anecdotally many parents and caregivers report that psychologists and health professionals have limited knowledge of FASD

Who Were Our Participants?

- 182 participants
- Mostly female (88.5%)
- Mean age 38.5 years
- Mostly clinical and generalist psychologists

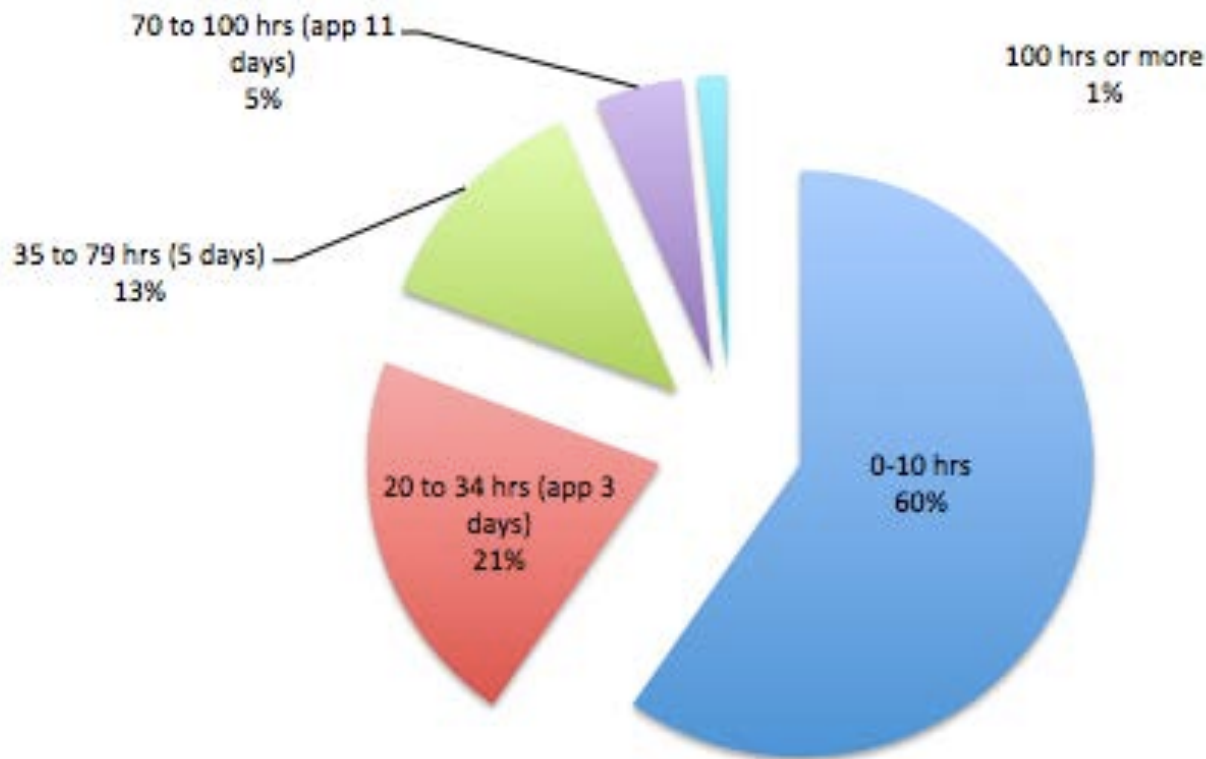


- Most had more than one year of experience as a psychologist, many had 5 years or more
- Average years working as a psychologist was 8.5 years



- Most had no previous training in FASD (70%).
- Those that did typically had 10 hrs or less.

Hours of FASD Training Recieved



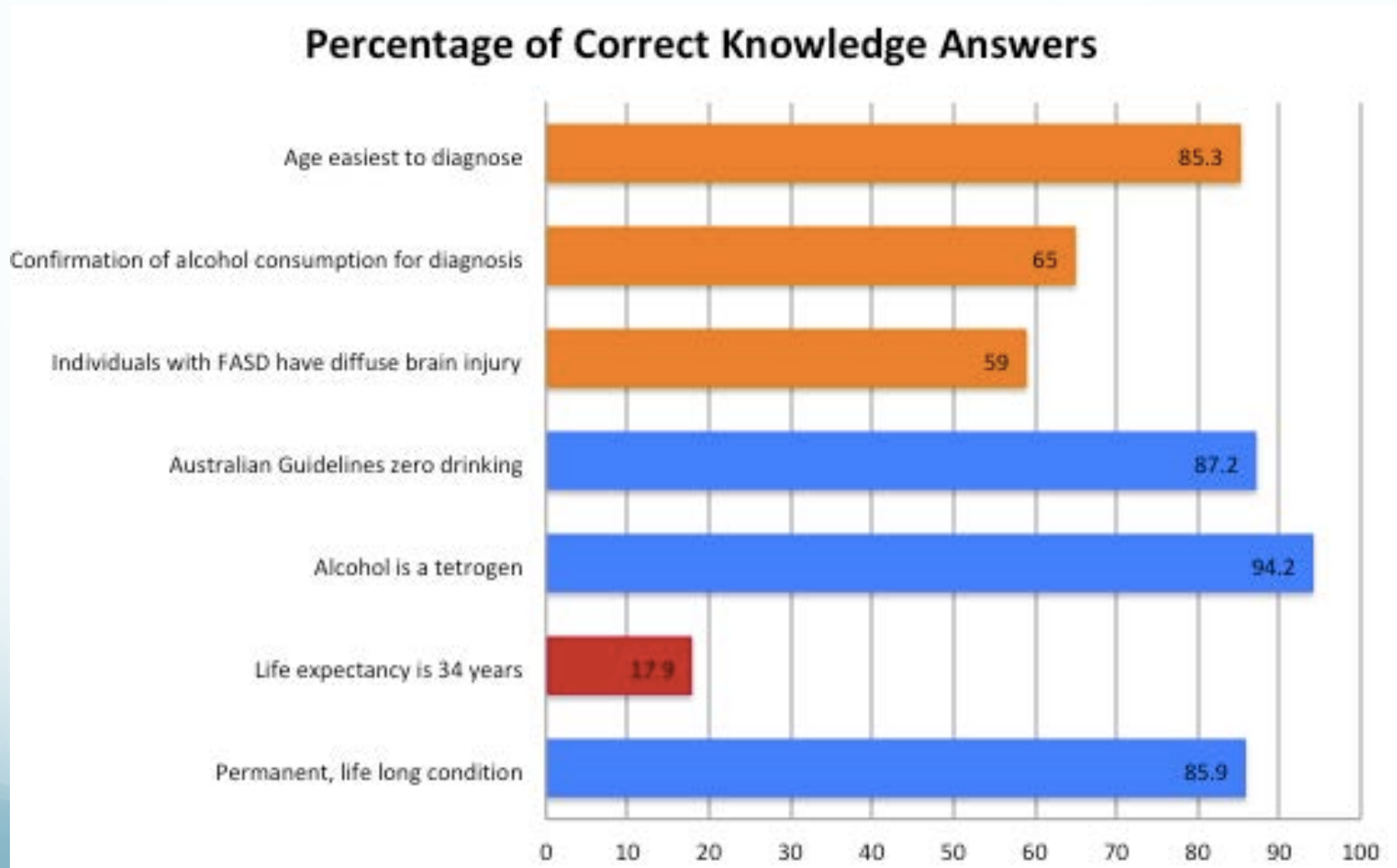
- Over half had not worked with someone diagnosed with FASD
- 65% had worked with a client they suspected had FASD
- Less than 10% had diagnosed someone with FASD

Perceived Abilities

- 65% of psychologists rated themselves as either somewhat or very unable to identify and work with someone with FASD
- Over 80% felt unable to diagnose someone with FASD
- Those with **previous training** (33.3%) rated themselves as **more able** to:
 - identify individuals with FASD ($p=0.000$)
 - diagnose individuals with FASD ($p=0.000$)
 - competently provide services to children and families affected by FASD ($p=0.000$)

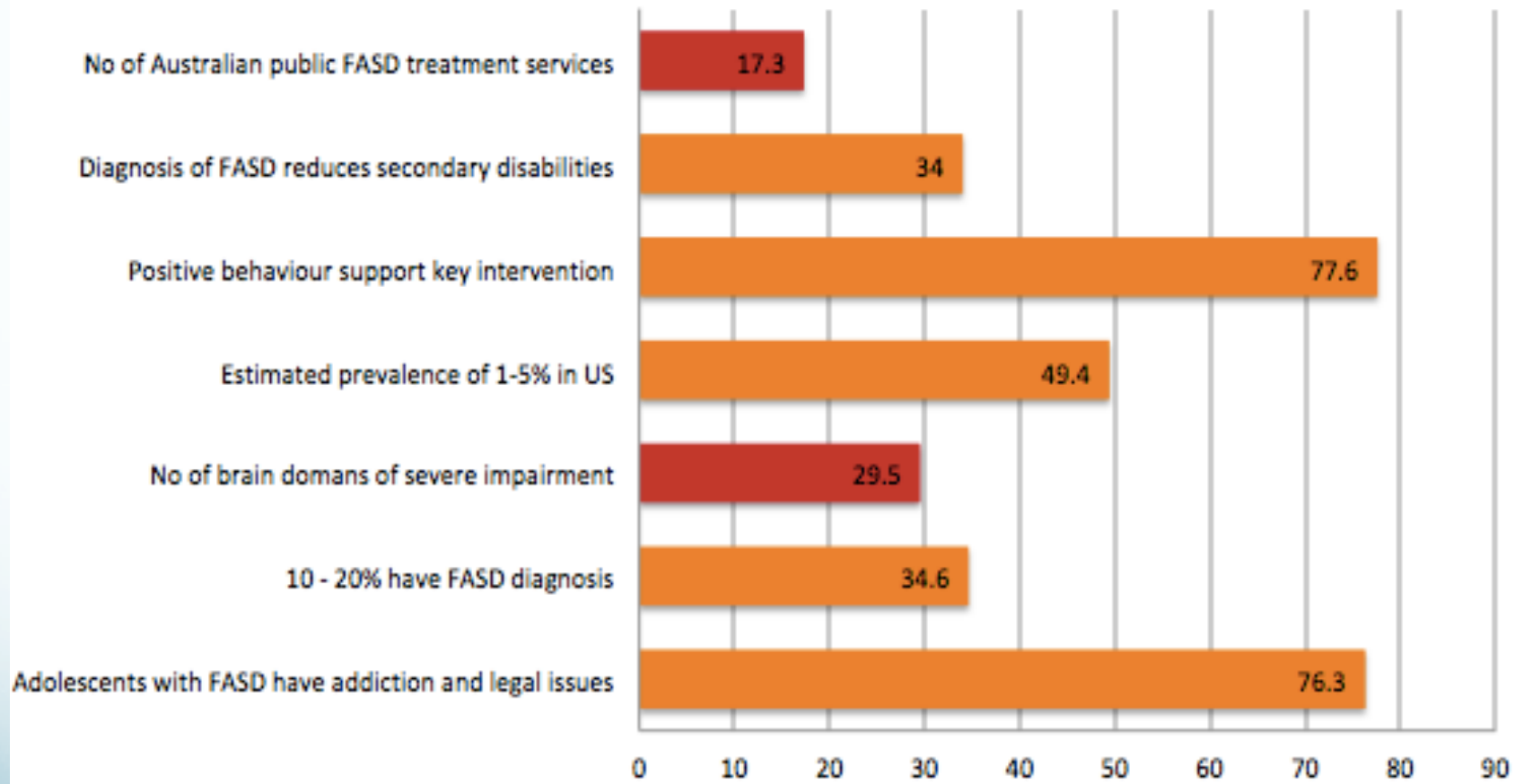
What Do Psychologists Know About FASD?

Asked 14, multiple choice questions about features of FASD, prevalence, diagnosis, treatment options, drinking guidelines

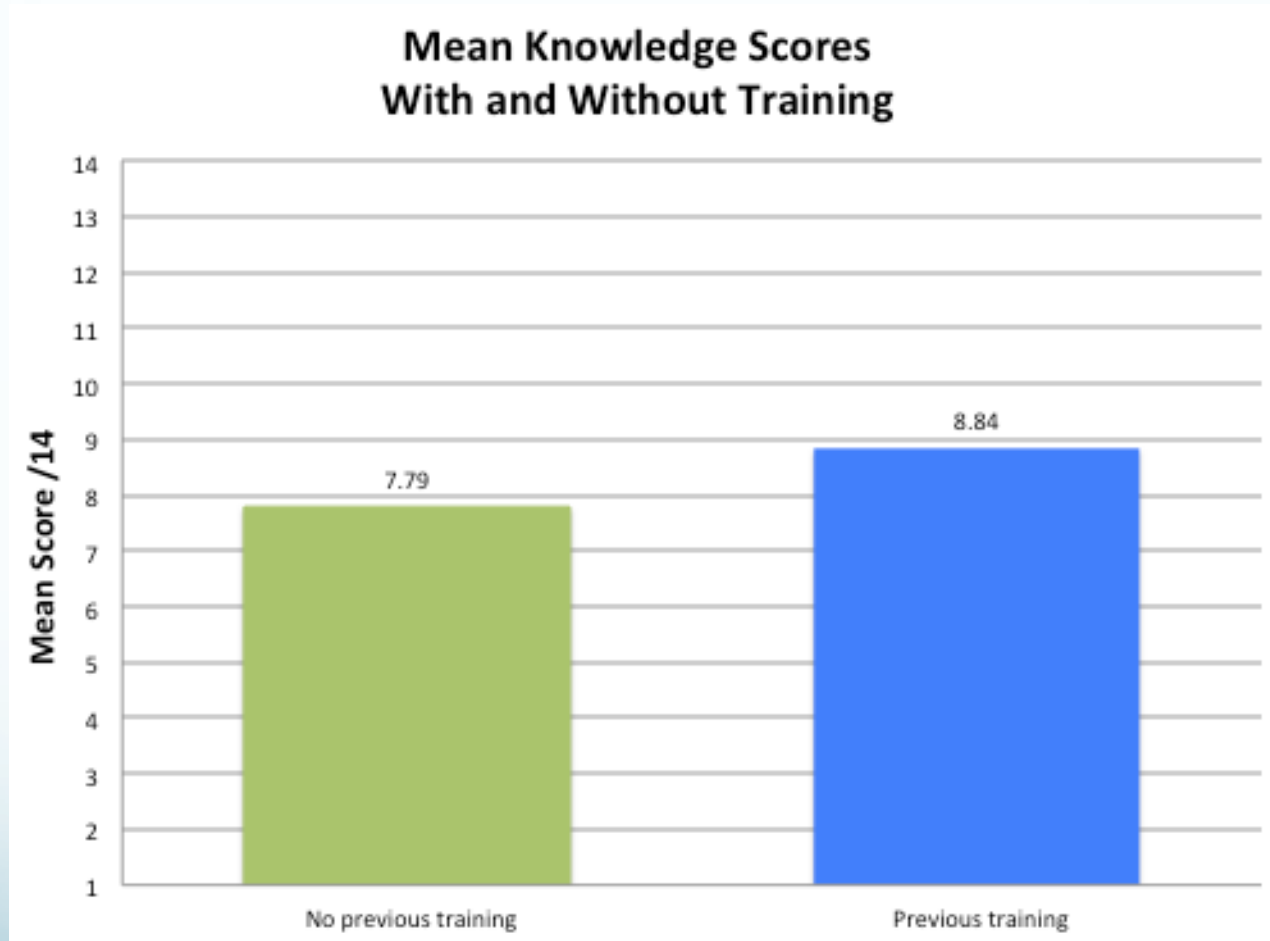


What Do Psychologists Know About FASD?

Percentage of Correct Knowledge Answers



Does Previous Training Make a Difference?



This difference is significant $p=.001$

What Further Training is Needed?

- Participants could select more than one response
- 59% requested further training in the form of workshops
- 44% wanted the training to be accredited
- 38% indicated that on-line training was desirable
- 42% thought it should be included in post-graduate programs
- Less than 1% indicated no further training was required

Conclusions

- Our study reported similar findings to a previous study of psychologists (Wedding et al., 2007)
- However our participants had:
 - greater knowledge in some areas
 - similar or higher perceived inability to identify, diagnose and treat FASD
- Psychologists are very likely to come across individuals with FASD but have very little confidence in their abilities to identify, work and diagnosis them resulting the need for more training.

What's Next?

- Continue training Psychologists about FASD
- Refine our questionnaires
- What do teachers know about FASD? (281, 948)
 - First and enduring contact with young people

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